FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-226
Wednesday
23 November 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-226 CONTENTS *23 November 1994*

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Paper Criticizes CSCE Minsk Group Positions *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 10 Nov]* ... 1
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 November ... 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chernomyrdin, UAE Crown Prince View Bilateral Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 3
  Arms Deal Agreement Expected *[INTERFAX]* ... 3
  Financial, Economic Relations Sought *[INTERFAX]* ... 3
Soskovets Will Not Discuss Kuril Issue With Japan *[Tokyo KYODO]* ... 4
Activists At U.S. Embassy Protest NATO Strike *[INTERFAX]* ... 4
Chernomyrdin Signs Order Lifting Haiti Sanctions *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 4
Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hails Angolan Accord *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
Karasin Welcomes Mozambique Election Outcome *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
Rybkin Greets Moscow Forum on Partnership in Europe *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
Yeltsin, Kohl To Hold Talks During CSCE Meeting *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
Upcoming Kozyrev-Kinkel Talks To Focus on Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 5
Kozyrev, Greek Counterpart Call for Bosnian Settlement *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 6
Text of Federation Council Statement on Kaliningrad *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* ... 6
Yeltsin Rules Out Ceding Territory to Estonia *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 7
Estonia's Luik Says Yeltsin Not on Friendly Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 7
Lithuania Denied MFN Status Over Transit Row *[IZVESTIYA 22 Nov]* ... 7
NATO Airstrike Backed Against 'Unjustifiable' Serbs *[AFP]* ... 8
Concern For Peacekeepers' Security After Air Raid *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 8
Udbina Raid Puts Moscow Bosnia Stance 'in Doubt' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 23 Nov]* ... 8
Moscow May Withdraw Peacekeepers from Former Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* ... 9
Karasin on Need For Bosnia Cease-Fire *[Moscow Radio]* ... 9
Croatia Troops on 'High Alert' After Air Strike *[INTERFAX]* ... 10

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Signs Self-Government Edict *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Nov]* ... 11
Yeltsin Issues Judicial Reform Decree *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 11
Yeltsin on Estonian Border Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 11
  Tours Border Area *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 11
Soskovets Aide Denies Replacement by Chubays *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 11
Russia's Choice Party Favors Government Changes *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 12
Zhirinovskiy Predicts Kremlin Coup *[INTERFAX]* ... 12
Duma Speaker on Yeltsin, Budget, Elections *[INTERFAX]* ... 12
Russia Prepares To Join Council of Europe *[INTERFAX]* ... 13
Yasin Calls To Liberalize Fuel, Energy Complex *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 13
Yasin on Absence of Foreign Investment Controls *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 13
Chernomyrdin Signs 'Urgent' Economic Decree *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* ... 14
Panskov Anticipates Budget Revenue, Bank Credits *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* ... 15
Yeltsin Announces Social Aid Plan *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 15
Ministry Notes Regional Monetary Income Levels *[IZVESTIYA 19 Nov]* ... 15
New 'Express' Satellite Series Launched *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 15
Lack of Funds Lowers Missile Readiness *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Nov]* ... 16
Edict Recreates FCS Investigation Body *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 17
Yeltsin Decrees Formation of FCS Crime Unit *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 17
Yerin on Organized Crime, 'Alleged' Threat *[ITAR-TASS]* ... 17
Officials Arrest Kholodov Murder Suspect *[INTERFAX]* ... 17

Media Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on New Information Department *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Yeltsin on Mass Media, Meets Radio Chiefs *[Moscow Radio]* 18
Yeltsin Looks For TV, Radio 'Options' *[Moscow TV]* 18
Gaydar on Media Policy, Opposes TV Merger *[ITAR-TASS]* 19

Federal Assembly

Finance Minister Rules Out Changes to Draft Budget *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
State Duma Rejects Paramonova as Central Bank Chief *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
    Votes for Emergency Anticrime Measures *[Russian TV]* 19
    Adopts Draft Law on Minimum Wages *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Duma Committee Accepts Defense Budget, To Petition Yeltsin *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 23 Nov]* . 20

Regional Affairs

Forces On Alert in Chechnya, Prepare for Invasion *[INTERFAX]* 20
    Small Arms Exchange Fire on Russian Border *[INTERFAX]* 20
    'Secret' Islamic Battalions Forming *[Moscow Radio]* 21
    Switching Economy To Meet Military Needs *[INTERFAX]* 21
    Dudayev on Moscow, Current Chechnya Issues *[IZVESTIYA 23 Nov]* 21
    Ukraine's UNSO Calls For 'Friendly' Brigades *[UKRAYINSKI OBRIYI No.13, Oct 94]* 22
Ingush Council Critcizes Temporary Administrations *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Northwest Regions Form Union, Plan Budget Work *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 22 Nov]* 23
Vologda Leaders Agree To Joint Activities *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Nov]* 23
Kabardino-Balkar Citizens Favor Unity Preservation *[IZVESTIYA 22 Nov]* 23
Makeup of Petersburg Assembly Reflects State Duma *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* 24
Seminar Opens on Izhevsk Chemical Weapons *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Tatarstan MVD Chief on Current Tasks *[RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN 10 Nov]* 24
Tatarstan Official on Illegal Immigration *[IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA 10 Nov]* 26

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma Addresses UN General Assembly *[Kiev International]* 28
Shcherbak on Ukraine's 'Image' *[IZVESTIYA 22 Nov]* 31
Fedorov Discusses NPT 'Misunderstanding' *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
    On Russia as Main Strategic Partner *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Canada Agrees to Energy Assistance, Exploration *[RADA 21 Nov]* 32
Crimean Group Favors Russian 'Reunion' *[UNIAR]* 33

National Affairs

Official Discusses Nuclear Safety Legislation *[URYADOVYY KURYER 19 Nov]* 33
Nuclear Plant Brings New Reactor On Line *[INTELNEWS]* 34
National Bank Bans Foreign Currency Trade *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 19 Nov]* 34
Crimea Notes Income, Spending Increases *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 11 Nov]* 34
    Nine-Month Consumer Market Statistics *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 15 Nov]* 35

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Hryb on U.S. Compensation for Nuclear Materials *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Gas Deliveries Resume From Russia *[INTERFAX]* 36
EBRD Grants Business Credit Line *[Minsk Radio]* 36
IMF Declines To Grant New Credit *[INTERFAX]* 36

'Experts' Detail 'Inflationary' Economic Policy *[BELPAN]* 36
Oil Exploration Requires Additional Funding *[BELAPAN]* 38

Moldova

Sangheli on U.S. Loans, Russian Gas Supplies *[BASAPRESS]* 39
Official Calls For U.S. Assistance in Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 39
Russia Reduces Contingent *[INTERFAX]* 39
Party Leader Regrets Peacekeeper Cuts *[BASAPRESS]* 40
General Lebed Says 14th Army Will Remain *[NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* . 40
Consumer Goods Production Registers Decline *[BASAPRESS]* 42

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Agreement With U.S. to Transfer 600 Kg of Uranium *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
European Bank To Assist Banking, Agriculture, Industry *[INTERFAX]* 43
Uzbekistan Reduces Price of Exported Gas *[Almaty TV]* 43
Finance Minister Interviewed on Budget *[Almaty TV]* 43
Daukeyev on Resources, Foreign Investment *[PANORAMA 12 Nov]* 44

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Fears 'Shouters, Politicians' in New Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 46
Authorities Spurn Cossack Rally Demands *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* 47
Report on 10-Month Economic Situation *[SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA]* 47

Tajikistan

Telegram Received From Iranian President *[Dushanbe Radio]* 49
Russian Commander Urges Concerted Peace Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
ICO Secretary General Arrives on Visit 50
Holds Talks With Foreign Minister *[Dushanbe Radio]* 50
Received by Rakhmanov *[Dushanbe Radio]* 50
Statement Issued on Killing of Journalist *[Dushanbe Radio]* 51
Opposition Forces Prepare for Border Offensive in Spring *[INTERFAX]* 51
Islamic Opposition Preparations Noted *[Dushanbe Radio]* 51
Border Post Attacked by Militants; No Casualties *[ITAR-TASS]* 51

Uzbekistan

Foreign Minister Meets With Afghan Counterpart *[Kabul Radio]* 52
President Issues Edict To Halt Crop Damage *[Tashkent TV]* 52
Security Chief Pledges To Release Political Prisoners *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Nov]* 52
New Agriculture Minister Appointed *[Tashkent Radio]* 53
Privatization Goal of 50 Percent by End of Year *[Tashkent TV]* 53
State To Promote Ecology Fund's Activities *[NARODNOYE SLOVO 22 Nov]* 53

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Russians Applaud Work on Nuclear Power Station *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 18 Nov]* 55
Greek Delegation in Yerevan for Bilateral Talks *[SNARK]* 55
To Participate in Karabakh Peacekeeping *[SNARK]* 55
Greek Presence Welcomed *[SNARK]* 55
Gas Supplies Cut; Russia TV, Radio Interrupted *[INTERFAX]* 55
CIS Committee Asks Uzbekistan To Deliver Gas *[SNARK]* 56
Georgia Energy Problems Stop Railway Communications *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 56

President: Reform Will Create 'Economic Revolution' *[INTERFAX]* 56
Prime Minister Leaves on Official Visit to Paris *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* . 56
State Minister Receives Egyptian Industry Minister *[Yerevan Radio]* 57
Parliament Approves Market Reforms Program *[ITAR-TASS]* 57

Azerbaijan

German Official on Relations, Conflict With Armenia *[TURAN]* 57
Aliyev Meets Governmental Delegation From Norway *[TURAN]* 57
Aliyev's Meeting With IMF Officials Detailed *[Baku TV]* 58
'Balanced' Foreign Policy Outlined *[TURAN]* 58
Resumption of Turkmen Gas Deliveries Discussed *[TURAN]* 59
Emigration Figures Higher Than Immigration *[TURAN]* 59
Baku Reports 'Lawless Activities' Increasing *[Baku TV]* 59

Georgia

Launch Pad To Be Built at French Space Site *[INTERFAX]* 60
Foreign Minister's Greek Visit Cements Economic Ties *[REZONANSI 16 Nov]* 60
Committee Reviews Human Rights Situation *[KAVKASIONI 2 Nov]* 60
Human Rights Leader Halts Hunger Strike *[REZONANSI 18 Nov]* 67

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Radiation Situation Normalizes in Kiisa *[INTERFAX]* 69
Bomb Disabled at Heating Distribution Center *[ETA]* 69

Lithuania

Danish Minister Notes 'Necessary Preparations' for EU *[ELTA]* 69
Ignalina Antiterorrist Measures Please Observers *[BNS]* 69
Government Forecasts Economic Development *[Vilnius Radio]* 70

Paper Criticizes CSCE Minsk Group Positions

954K0354A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Georgiy Plekhanov: "A Karabakh Settlement: Moscow Wants To Be No. 1, as Before"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow sees the latest attempt to supplant Russia in the Transcaucasus as the reason for the serious disagreements between the Russian mediators and the CSCE mission engaged jointly and in parallel in a settlement of the conflict in Nagornyy Karabakh.

Criticism of the CSCE by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is already being heard publicly and harshly: Moscow believes that its dissatisfaction with the activity of the Minsk Group is justified by the fact that there are countries in the CSCE Minsk Group with their own political ambitions and geopolitical interests. They are attempting to deprive Russia of the individual right to participate in a peace settlement. Because of this it is, in fact, questioning the possibility of cooperation with the CSCE on the Karabakh issue.

The disagreements became pronounced last fall, when Moscow achieved a relatively prolonged cease-fire and was able to stage the first meeting of representatives of Azerbaijan and Nagornyy Karabakh. At that same time the CSCE Senior Officials Committee declared "the central role of the Minsk process," but not Russian mediation proper. The peak of the confrontation has been the present fall, when at the CSCE Assembly in Vienna a new program for a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict was drafted. One of its main provisions is the deployment of an international disengagement force of 1,600 to 2,000 servicemen between the conflicting military formations.

Inasmuch as it is more a question today of who will perform the priority role in this process, not of the settlement plans themselves (which in principle differ from one another little), the parties to the conflict have occupied a wait-and-see position, although maintaining the truce at the front. Azerbaijan has declared here in the person of its minister of foreign affairs, Gasan Gasanov, that the Grand Political Agreement implies not some one specific document with some specific authorship but any document with any authorship that leads to a settlement of the conflict. He said that the republic is insisting on a solution of the Karabakh problem within the framework of the CSCE and the United Nations. The head of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vagan Papazyan, said, in turn, that "the West is prepared to take the risk of an increase in the Russian military presence in the Transcaucasus in the event of the establishment of the corresponding control." He "understands Russia's aspiration to obtain the mandate of the CSCE or the United Nations for the commitment of its military units to the confrontation zone, but has no objections to the participation in this action of representatives of other countries also."

In the opinion of Russian diplomats, however, what is at issue is the fact that the priority influence in the region will be conditioned by whose troops ultimately constitute the basis of the future peacekeeping force. They declare that Russia was the first—a year ago—to raise the question of the need for a disengagement force. The CSCE, however, reached this point of "maturity" only after Moscow had been successful and a truce had, by Moscow's efforts, been maintained for six months. It is possible that the reason for the stimulation of Western mediation were Baku's oil deal and certain obligations of the Western partners to assist Azerbaijan (which is insisting on the priority of the CSCE in a settlement of the conflict). This also was the reason for the attention shown the Karabakh problem by the Washington administration during the visit to the United States of President Yeltsin and the financial support for the peacekeeping operation promised by President Clinton. It may be recalled that a very harsh reaction from Moscow's corridors of power followed the Georgian leader Shevardnadze's attempt to obtain support in the United States and his speech in the UN General Assembly. This despite the fact that the West's participation was limited to a UN observer mission.

As far as Nagornyy Karabakh is concerned, although it was decided following the September session of the CSCE Minsk Nine in Vienna and the Prague meeting of the Senior Officials Committee to study the question of a peacekeeping operation in the area of Nagornyy Karabakh under the aegis and with the funding of the CSCE and the creation of a multinational force, Russia will hardly consent to this lest it evoke a similar temptation in other countries. In addition, Moscow considers the existence of the CSCE plan "mystification" since the CSCE has not conducted a single peacekeeping operation and has neither the corresponding mandate nor the finances. Conducting such operations in haste, on the other hand, is impermissible, Moscow believes, and it is making it understood by its behavior that it does not recognize collective efforts as a guarantor of success and is defining the actions of the CSCE Minsk Group as an envious reaction to its own mediation efforts.

The CSCE truly does not have its own mechanisms for a settlement of the conflict, just as it does not have its own peacekeeping forces. With the CSCE's leisurely-paced procedures, their formation would take several years, whereas the unguaranteed truce in the region might, experts fear, be violated sooner or later. The priority goal of the Russian plan was a ceasefire, of the CSCE plan, continuation of the negotiating process with the dispatch to the region of its observers, and what is more, in languid rhythm and homeopathic doses.

Nor, for that matter, has Moscow agreed to a compromise—the coexistence of European observers and Russian troops. Since in the absence of security guarantees, which Nagornyy Karabakh links with the presence of a peacekeeping force, Azerbaijan would hardly manage to get back its territory that is currently occupied by the enemy, Baku has shunned the understanding proposed by Minsk Group Chairman Jan Eliasson. This understanding represented an agreement to dispatch observers. Moscow disliked the agreement, so did Azerbaijan, since it froze the situation in its present form. Baku would have been forced, possibly, to consent to the presence of Russian troops under international control. But Russia was of a mind for more and wanted the peacekeeping force to consist only of its army units and under its command. It also wanted to obtain an international mandate and financing, but without a Western presence in the region. Moscow has been working actively at this time on a draft of its own grand political settlement, in which the CSCE is assigned a nominal role. The CSCE, however, is today accelerating the process in the hope that by this organization's next assembly in December in Budapest the question of the creation of a multinational force will have been decided.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 November

LD2311063294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0621 GMT 23 Nov 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIISKIE VESTI newspaper carries today an article by Commander-in-Chief of Russian Border Troops Andrey Nikolayev who writes: "An analysis of the system of threats to Russia's national security on the state border suggests a conclusion that there are the following basic interests which are of permanent and invariable nature for the country: prevention of any type of aggression, state sovereignty, territorial integrity and socio-political stability".

"The outside borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States is not only an advanced post of Russia's national security. This is history of community of sisterly nations who jointly protected their interests from outside and domestic threats for many centuries," the article runs.

The ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA newspaper continues a series of articles on the Voennyy Parad magazine. Investigating the operation of this press organ which was co-founded by a U.S. firm, Zigzag Venture group, the newspaper exposes "new aspects of its activities".

It turns out, the government newspaper writes, the magazine is active in selling Russian military secrets.

Dmitriy Volkogonov, chairman of the commission on POWs, the interned and missing in action at the Russian president's office, describes the commission's work in ROSSIISKIYE VESTI. Asked about the number of missing in Russia, the historian replied: "Over 1.5 million people".

The IZVESTIYA newspaper took an interview from Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev in the Chechen capital Groznyy, who traditionally laid the blame for rampant crime in the republic on Russia.

"While in the past, Dudayev's opponents and local Russians expressed a desire to do away with the president as soon as possible, whom they blamed for all the evils besetting the republic, sentiments are changing now," the newspaper writes.

"People more often think now that power should be concentrated in the hands of one person. Even if in the hands of the present president," the daily notes.

The youth KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper features an interview with new Interpol boss Bjorn Erickson, noting that it is the first interview by the new Interpol head to a foreign publication.

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA and ROSSIISKIYE VESTI describe the situation on the Russian-Estonian border in their reports on the eve of Boris Yeltsin's trip to the Pskov region (bordering Estonia).

"The situation on the border now is such that Russia is forced to protect its frontiers," the newspaper writes. "The trip by the president to the Pskov region gives hopes that the problem of a legal settlement of the Russian-Estonian section of the border will be resolved."

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI runs an interview with Russian chief delegate to the U.N. Sergey Lavrov who recently assumed these duties at the United Nations in New York. He was Russian deputy foreign minister since 1992.

The PRAVDA newspaper carries an interview with Anatoliy Lukyanov, a member of the Russian parliament lower house and former speaker of the Soviet parliament. According to Lukyanov, power-wielding structures in Russia are flexing muscles "to be ready to operate 'in state of emergency conditions' inside the country".

At the request of IZVESTIYA, Grigoriy Shevelev, first deputy chairman of the Ostankino TV and Radio Company and Anatoliy Lysenko, managing director of the Russian TV network, comment on an intention by the Russian president to merge the two state-owned companies.

"Our editorial board received information," the daily writes in the afterword to the interviews, "that Boris Yeltsin's statement on a merger of the two TV and radio broadcasting stations is possibly nothing but an impromptu, and the intention to merge the two companies will be reviewed. Nevertheless, the Kremlin's dissatisfaction with the operation of state television is evident."

The Russian press pays much attention to the events in Bosnia, noting that they are again in the limelight of world politics.

The NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA newspaper reports that work is in progress in the Russian Communist Party to draft a new ideological doctrine.

Chernomyrdin, UAE Crown Prince View Bilateral Relations

LD2211120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1106 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Vyacheslav Anchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov—Immediately after arriving in the capital of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the government of Russia, met with UAE Crown Prince Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayd Al Nuhayyan, deputy supreme commander of the Federal Defense Force of the UAE.

V. Chernomyrdin said that the visit to the UAE by a Russian delegation at such a high level bears witness to the great significance which Russia attaches to relations with the UAE and to other countries of the Persian Gulf. We hope, he stressed, that this visit will give a powerful boost to the development of relations between the two countries in various spheres.

For his part, Shaykh Khalifah pointed out that the UAE attaches the same significance to this visit, since it is striving for closer cooperation with all countries to multiply regional and international efforts aimed at establishing peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region. The UAE wants relations linking it to Russia to be deep and to have a stable base and to serve the interests of the peoples of both countries.

Speaking of the situation in the region, the crown prince called on all countries of the Persian Gulf to work out new formulae for peaceful coexistence on the basis of dialogue, of building confidence and the spirit of cooperation while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each state.

Arms Deal Agreement Expected

LD2211151794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, upon arrival in the United Arab Emirates' capital Abu-Dhabi, figuring in his tour of certain Gulf countries Tuesday [22 November], is expected to sign a bilateral trade and economic cooperation accord, guaranteeing most-favored nation status for the two countries.

Moscow and Abu-Dhabi are also set to agree on cooperation in power engineering and oil equipment supplies. During the visit, Chernomyrdin is to meet with the United Arab Emirates' president and defense minister.

Well-informed sources in the Russian delegation have reported to Interfax, the negotiating partners are ready to agree on terms for Russian arms shipments and on a program for military and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Earlier, Russia struck a deal to supply the Arab Emirates with BMP-3 and BTR-80 armored vehicles and Su-35 fighters (Su-27 modification designed for developing countries). $200 million in military hardware were delivered last summer.

According to some sources, the state-run corporation Rosvooruzhenyie, Russia's monopolist in arms trade, intends to offer the Emirates unique anti-aircraft complexes Tor and Tunguska, capable of shielding against missiles.

During preliminary talks, the Emirates' military displayed keen interest in Russia's Su-27 interceptor. The two countries agreed that 50 percent of these Russian military supplies would be paid out of Russia's debt of $550 million, while part of the payment would be remitted to Russia in a convertible currency.

Chernomyrdin and Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of Roskomoboronprom, Russia's Committee for Defense Industry Branches, will also negotiate ways for the Emirates to participate in a program to develop Su-37, a multi-purpose fighter of a new generation. Military and technical cooperation between the two countries are estimated by the Russian side at over $3 billion.

As Glukhikh has reported to Interfax, Moscow attaches great significance to INDEX-95, an exhibition of arms and military equipment in Abu-Dhabi next year. "We would like to demonstrate more naval arms and, possibly our special-purpose work," Glukhikh said, noting that at the last such show Russia exhibited mainly armored vehicles and aircraft.

Financial, Economic Relations Sought

LD2311132194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has called for wider mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia and the United Arab Emirates. He was speaking in Abu Dhabi, as he met with local businessmen.

"We have quite a few promising projects in which UAE businesses could take part. UAE and Russia are oil countries and we have a great deal in common in that field," Chernomyrdin said. He believes that the two countries may cooperate in prospecting for and developing new oil fields as well as using old ones in Russia.

Chernomyrdin told journalists Russia and UAE could establish small joint ventures in the metallurgical industry to produce aluminum rolled stock and steel reinforcements, chemical factories. There are plans for building a liquid oxygen and nitrogen plant in UAE.

Chernomyrdin said that the Russian Government had studied the possibility of founding a joint Russian-UAE bank and insurance company.

Chernomyrdin said that military and technological cooperation was not high on the agenda of negotiations with the UAE government. "We have barely scratched the surface", Chernomyrdin said.

Meanwhile President of Stolichny Bank Aleksandr Smolenskiy has said that UAE financial authorities have so far denied permission to his bank to open its office in the United Arab Emirates. They argue that Stolichny's charter capital is small and funds coming from Russia are difficult to control.

According to early reports, Russia and UAE failed to finalize a new agreement on trade and economic cooperation, remaining divided on the issue of most favored nation status. UAE reportedly links the conclusion of such an agreement and preferential treatment in trade with the finalizing of a legal system to protect foreign investments in Russia.

The sides are still to resolve the problem of Russia's debt to the UAE as well. Russia and the former USSR owe UAE $550 million. At the end of 1993, around $60 million in payments was overdue. A decision on whether the debt is to be deferred, restructured or to begin to be paid may be made in the course of Wednesday talks.

Interstate trade between Russia and UAE in 1993 totaled $257.5 million. According to unofficial sources, private Russian businesses purchased $1 billion worth of goods last year.

Soskovets Will Not Discuss Kuril Issue With Japan

OW2311053494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0508 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov. 23 KYODO—Russian First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets will not discuss a longstanding territorial dispute with Japan over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido during his visit to Tokyo beginning Sunday, Russian Government sources said Tuesday [22 November].

Soskovets made this clear in a meeting Tuesday in Moscow with Japanese Ambassador to Russia Koji Watanabe. The sources said that during the talks, Soskovets and Watanabe agreed that the territorial issue should be resolved based on a declaration issued by the leaders of the two countries at the end of President Boris Yeltsin's state visit to Tokyo in October last year.

The Joint Declaration, signed by then Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and President Yeltsin, vowed to resolve the territorial dispute on the basis of the historical record and respect for "law and justice."

The islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group—were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II. The declaration also said the two countries should use the opportunities provided by the end of the Cold War to improve their long-frosty relations through more regular political dialogue at the highest levels.

According to the sources, Soskovets and Watanabe discussed establishing a new working group between the two countries over the territorial issue, to be set up after Soskovets' visit to Tokyo.

Soskovets and Watanabe also discussed foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev's planned visit to Japan next January. They agreed the two sides will exchange views on various political issues, including the territorial dispute during Kozyrev's visit, the sources said.

Soskovets will hold talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, during his stay in Tokyo, as well as signing an economic accord with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, the sources said. The deputy premier and his delegation will return to Russia on Dec. 1.

Activists At U.S. Embassy Protest NATO Strike

LD2211152194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over 100 Russian opposition activists were counted, at one time, picketing in Moscow on Tuesday [22 November] at the U.S. embassy in connection with the bombing on November 21 of Croat Serb positions by NATO planes.

Their slogans read: "Hands Off Serbia", "NATO Is an Instrument of the World Gendarme and the United States", "Serbs, We Are on Your Side", "Long Live Slavic Brotherhood", "The USA Is the Main Violator of Human Rights", "Civilized Cannibals— Hands Off the Serbs", "The United States, Stop Playing Moslems Against the Orthodox". "The USA Is an Evil Empire" and so on. The picketers chanted: "Yankees, Go Home", "Yankees, Hands Off Serbia", "Yankees-Murderers".

No embassy representative came to meet picketers despite their demands to see one, some demanded to meet the U.S. ambassador.

The picketers approved a message to U.S. president Bill Clinton demanding that "bloody hands be removed from the heroic and freedom-loving people of Serbian Krajna."

The message was signed by representatives of the Workers' Russia Movement, the Great Russian-Slavonic District Assembly and the Russian Academy, the Russian Nationwide Union, and the Moscow branch of the Russian Communist Workers Party.

Chernomyrdin Signs Order Lifting Haiti Sanctions

LD2211154094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a resolution which allows state and private industrial, financial and other companies to cooperate with Haiti.

The document received by TASS on Tuesday says the decision was adopted in compliance with the resolution of the UN Security Council which lifted sanctions against Haiti.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hails Angolan Accord

LD2211153394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Russia hails the fact that representatives of Angolan government and the UNITA movement signed a protocol on cessation of all hostilities throughout the Angolan territory and resumption of the peaceful process in the country, Grigoriy Karasin, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told a briefing here on Tuesday [22 November].

The protocol in question was signed in the Zambian capital of Lusaka on November 20.

Moscow sincerely wants the mutual understanding achieved between the two Angolan parties to evolve in the course of fulfilling the signed agreements into a profound mutual confidence. For its part, Moscow will give all-round support to it, the diplomat emphasized.

Karasin Welcomes Mozambique Election Outcome

LD2211161194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov and Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Moscow welcomes reports about a successful outcome of the general multi-party elections in Mozambique. "We give tribute to the choice of the people of Mozambique in favour of peace and the revival of their country", Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing Tuesday [22 November].

He expressed hope that all participants in the Mozambique settlement "will continue to show responsibility and act proceeding from common care for the future of their state".

"Russia, which has actively promoted the peaceful process in Mozambique, is ready to continue contributing to the restoration and development of that country with which we maintain long-standing links of friendship and multi-faceted cooperation", Karasin said.

Rybkin Greets Moscow Forum on Partnership in Europe

LD2311113094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 ITAR-TASS—About 300 leading politicians, diplomats, scholars and businessmen from Russia and West European countries gathered here on Wednesday [23 November] for the first day of a symposium which is to focus on partnership and cooperation between Russia and Europe.

According to the spokesman for the EC representative office in Moscow, Catherine Magnane, Russian and West European experts will discuss partnership between Russia and the European Council in the political, economic and cultural spheres, cooperation with the CSCE, and relations with NATO. The participants in the forum are expected to discuss prospects for the implementation of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the EC, which was concluded in Greece last June, she said.

Head of the lower house of the Russian parliament Ivan Rybkin has sent a greeting message to the symposium. He expressed the hope that the constructive exchange of views on political, economic, social and humanitarian cooperation would become another real step towards partnership between Russia and Europe. "The understanding that it is necessary to continue democratic reforms dominates in Russia. This is a moral and political imperative of the president and parliamentarians and we are guided by it in our steps both in Russia and on the world scene", Rybkin's message said.

Yeltsin, Kohl To Hold Talks During CSCE Meeting

LD2311102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0947 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will meet in Budapest in early December during the forthcoming CSCE meeting, German Ambassador to Russia Otto von der Gablentz said on Wednesday. Gablentz is in Moscow for an international symposium "Russia within the framework of European partnership and cooperation".

The Russian-German summit will focus on prospects for the implementation of the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the European Council over which Germany is currently presiding. The agreement was signed in Greece last June.

Upcoming Kozyrev-Kinkel Talks To Focus on Yugoslavia

LD2311112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his

German counterpart Klaus Kinkel will meet late this week, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov reported here today at the international symposium "Russia within the framework of European partnership and cooperation."

The venue of the meeting has not been announced yet. The talks will focus on the situation in former Yugoslavia and a wide range of international problems in the setting of the forthcoming contacts on the level of foreign ministers of the European countries and the United States, ITAR-TASS learned from reliable sources.

During his recent visit to Paris Kozyrev held similar consultations with Foreign Ministry officials from Britain and France. On Tuesday night he met the Greek foreign minister. It was stressed at the meeting that it is necessary to work for a political and not military settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

Kozyrev, Greek Counterpart Call for Bosnian Settlement

LD2211192294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Russia will not endanger the lives of its soldiers, who are members of the U.N. peace-keeping force, if the Bosnian situation continues to deteriorate, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS Before meeting his Greek counterpart Karolos Papoulias here today. The negotiations were held in the Russian Foreign Ministry's residence within the framework of an unannounced brief visit of the Greek minister to the Russian capital.

In the words of Kozyrev, safety guarantees for the peace-makers are the key issue tackled today by the Russian side. "This is the major question we raised to our partners. I must say that we will not risk the lives of our soldiers if the political measures are replaced by those military be it the lift of the embargo or be it the escalation of air raids. They are staying in the area within the framework of a peace-making and not a military operation, and we will not allow them being in danger," said Kozyrev.

Speaking of Monday's NATO bombing of the Udbina airport on territory of Serbian Krajinas in Croatia, Kozyrev said that Russia is still waiting for answers to some questions. At the same time, members of the U.N. Security Councils concluded that it was, on the whole, a justified act of "preventive nature", said Kozyrev. He would like to hope that this action will prevent the escalation of combat operations, although it is very hard to solve the problem with such methods.

In the words of Kozyrev, the stands of Moscow and Athens on former Yugoslavia coincide. The sides regularly exchange information and keep a contact with the Serb leaders. Russia and Greece are "looking for political and not military ways to settle the conflict," said Kozyrev.

He noted that a regular ministerial meeting on Bosnia will be held "in early December most likely in Brussels" to be attended by foreign ministers of Russia, the United States and the European Union.

In his turn, the Greek foreign minister noted their concern over developments in former Yugoslavia. He stressed he came to Moscow especially to discuss the current situation, and noted that Kozyrev and he were striving to find a political solution to the problem.

Text of Federation Council Statement on Kaliningrad

MM2211133994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 First Edition p 1

[Statement No. 266-1 SF of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council, signed by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council and dated 17 November 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Baltic Assembly—the parliamentary organ of the Baltic states—adopted a resolution "On the Demilitarization of Kaliningrad Oblast and Its Further Development" at its session in Vilnius 13 November 1994.

The Federation Council assesses the nature and content of this document as an attempt at overt interference in the Russian Federation's internal affairs. Kaliningrad Oblast is an inalienable component of Russia. The number of Russian troops on the territory of Kaliningrad Oblast is determined by the interests of national security and fully accords with the Russian Federation's international commitments.

The Baltic Assembly's desire to declare the future of Kaliningrad Oblast to be a "problem for all Europe," for whose resolution "joint actions" are necessary, their appeal to the Baltic Council of Ministers to hold an international conference on matters pertaining to the demilitarization of Kaliningrad Oblast, and their proposal to restore the old places in Kaliningrad Oblast—all this not only violates bilateral treaties, international commitments, and the norms of international law, but also damages the state sovereignty of the Russian Federation. Attempts to cast doubt on the results of World War II are particularly blasphemous today, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism.

The Federation Council resolutely states that these steps not only are not conducive to deepening trust and cooperation in the interests of development but aim to seriously exacerbate the situation in this region. Any encroachments on Russia's state sovereignty will meet with a most resolute rebuff on our part.

[Signed] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

[Dated] Moscow, 17 November 1994

Yeltsin Rules Out Ceding Territory to Estonia

LD2311102694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pskov November 23 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin ruled out any possibility of ceding territories to Estonia which claims about 2,000 square kilometres in the northern Russian Pskov region.

"This border was, is and will be Russian and we shall not cede a single centimetre of land no matter who claims it", Yeltsin said on Wednesday [23 November] while visiting the checkpoint "Kunichina Gora" in the Pskov region bordering on Estonia.

Russia has recently began unilaterally demarcating border with the former Soviet Baltic republic.

Estonia's Luik Says Yeltsin Not on Friendly Visit

LD2311124794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1218 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pskov November 23 TASS—"This border has always been and will be Russian and we shall not give away a single inch of land, no matter who claims it," said Russian President Boris Yeltsin today during his visit to the "Kunichina Gora" border check point on the border with Estonia.

According to reports which came to ITAR-TASS, Estonia claims 800 square kilometers in the Leningrad region and 1,500 square kilometers in the Pskov region.

Yeltsin described the problem of the construction of border facilities on the Russo-Estonian border as one of the most important. In his opinion, the border should be reliably protected and at the same time be "human" for the people. The president explained that the border should be arranged so as to offer a free access for Russians from Estonia who want to visit their relatives in the Pskov region.

The president believes that at present, the Russo-Estonian border is not reliable enough since, in comparison with the former Soviet border which stretched along the outer perimeter of the Baltics, it is by far less protected. "We have removed military hardware, air-defence installations from that border and so far, they do not operate on the Russo-Estonian border. It is only border check points which operate on the border at present," the president said.

The president was satisfied with the inspection of the infrastructure and border check points which are being built at present. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who had earlier visited the border check points, said that the construction was going ahead and that much had already been done.

Summing up the results of the visit to the "Kunichina Gora" border check point, the president described it as "real gates into Russia".

Later in the day, the president went to the Pechory monastery where he will have talks with the archbishop of Pskov and Velikiye Lukiy, Yevsiviy.

Meanwhile, the Estonian "HOMMIKULEHT" newspaper quoted the Estonian Foreign Minister Yuri Luik as saying that Boris Yeltsin's trip to the Pskov region and his visit to Russian border check points along "the line of temporary control" cannot be regarded as the manifestation of friendship.

Estonia regards the present Russo-Estonian border as "a line of temporary control" and claims part of the Pechory district in the Pskov region and the Kingissep district in the Leningrad region, which belonged to Estonia under the 1920 peace treaty.

Lithuania Denied MFN Status Over Transit Row

MM2211153594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "We Will Not Go Into Lithuania, We Will Go Around It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius has essentially reneged on the previously reached accords on the elaboration and signing of a bilateral intergovernmental agreement on Russian military transit through Lithuanian Republic territory.

This summer top Lithuanian Government officials publicly stated that the agreement was ready and could be signed "as early as in a month's time." Rather more than a month has passed....

In an interview with IZVESTIYA a Russian Foreign Ministry representative reported that a group of Lithuanian diplomats which had recently visited their colleagues in Moscow had shown them the rough drafts of "internal regulations" for foreign military transit through Lithuanian territory. "We are not refusing to sign the interstate agreement," they stated, "but we do not intend to discuss the drafts prepared by the sides. Would it not be easier for you to follow Lithuanian internal regulations?"

Moscow does not deny the Lithuanians the right to establish their own regulations, but does insist that consideration be given to the peculiarities of military transit shipments, which even at the peak of the troop withdrawal from Germany did not cause any conflicts, difficulties, or problems.

The freight transportation situation is being deliberately aggravated by the Lithuanian parliamentary opposition. Certain politicians are openly stating that Russia "poses a serious military threat to Lithuania" and that it is putting economic pressure on Lithuanians.

The Russian Government is restoring normal communications between Kaliningrad Oblast and the Russian "mainland." A ferry is just about to start operating between St. Petersburg and Baltiysk. A project for a railroad branch line from Russia through Poland and Belorussia [Belarus]—bypassing Lithuanian territory—is being devised. The military is ready to put an aerial bridge in place. "Now there can be no question of granting Lithuania most-favored-nation status," the Foreign Ministry representative stated.

NATO Airstrike Backed Against 'Unjustifiable' Serbs

AU2211144194 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Nov 22 (AFP)—Russia gave its support Tuesday to NATO's destruction of the Serb airstrip in Udbina, Croatia on Monday, saying the Serb attacks against the UN safe area of Bihac were unjustifiable.

Foreign affairs spokesman, Grigoriy Karassin, told journalists here on Tuesday that "the actions of the Krajina Serbs could not be justified."

This followed Monday's announcement by Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev that the NATO raid was a "response" against Serbs who were "interfering in the affairs of a foreign territory."

Karassin said that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council "Russia still reserves the right to question" the airstrike.

During Monday night's Security Council meeting, Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov raised questions on the way the NATO raid had been carried out.

Karrasin reaffirmed Russia's commitment to promote a peaceful solution in Bosnia and warned of "weapons, chaos and a bloodbath" if the international community failed to involve itself.

Concern For Peacekeepers' Security After Air Raid

LD2211142594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations November 22 TASS—"In light of the latest NATO massive air strike at the Udbina airfield in Serbian Krajina, located on the territory of Croatia, Russia has raised in the U.N. Security Council the question of guaranteeing the safety of Russian peacekeepers in that area," Russian permanent delegate on the United Nations Sergey Lavrov stated here.

He noted that during the Monday consultations the Security Council heard a report of the U.N. secretariat on the air raid on Serbian Krajina. "The Russian delegation believes that the furnished information is insufficient, because it contains no details of the operation. This refers to the way in which the Security Council resolution, sanctioning the air strike, was implemented. It also keeps mum on the necessary preliminary consultations with U.N. members," the Russian delegate stated. He said that the Russian delegation had demanded additional information and was promised it.

Lavrov pointed out that several members of the Security Council had raised the question of peacekeepers' safety in Croatia after the latest air raid. "Unfortunately, some Czech peacekeepers were captured and kept as hostages in the U.N. guarded area of Croatia after the air strike. And this was our main problem. We expect to get information from the U.N. secretariat on how the safety of Russian peacekeepers in Croatia is being ensured," the Russian representative said.

Udbina Raid Puts Moscow Bosnia Stance 'in Doubt'

MM2311102394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Nov 94 p 7

[Commentary by Yelena Kalyadina under the general heading "This Time Krajina Has Gone Too Far"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again the Serbs are being taught a lesson in full view of the honest people of the world. This time it is the turn of the Krajina Serbs. It serves them right, apparently. Why did they interfere in Bihac, which was declared a safe zone by the United Nations?

However, I am not going to talk about the Serbs. I want to talk about those who decide between reconciliation and punishment. NATO's latest military operation, in my view, is as clear as the sky where it was carried out. Reconciliation isn't working, so punishment is needed. Yet again!

But the present situation is more confused and contradictory than ever before. Now the United States, having refused to monitor the embargo on arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims, has driven a wedge in relations with its European NATO allies. Furthermore, an anti-U.S. diplomatic front consisting of Russia, France, and Britain has begun to form over Bosnia. The London conference of the international "contact group" did not remove the tension, by all accounts.

Now, suddenly, international unanimity has been achieved for approval of the NATO "thrashing"! Does this not suggest that the "peacemakers" are no longer in control of their actions?

Since the official information on this issue, including from staffers of the Russian Foreign Ministry (whom I tried to contact, unsuccessfully) is virtually zero, I will venture a conjecture and suggest a solution.

First, the conjecture. It is to do with the fact that Russia has associated itself with the international anger against the Krajina Serbs. According to some information, this anger stems from the "division of labor" accord reached between Andrey Kozyrev and his French and British counterparts in Paris recently. The accord was as follows. France and Britain will try to pressure the United States not to lift the Bosnian arms embargo after all, and Russia will not oppose acts of retribution against the Serbs if they prove necessary. That is what happened. Russia did not oppose them. For the first time in a long time it voted in the UN Security Council for punishment.

Now for the solution. On this occasion will Russian diplomacy not have to waive the principles recently worked out in the Balkans? Specifically the principle that initiatives here should be bolder and more just. But according to the latter Russia intended to use the tactic of encouragement, not chastisement in the former Yugoslavia—so as to make the Bosnian Serbs accept the "peace ultimatum." This plan of "encouragement" even included recognition of Serb Krajina. Now that plan is in serious doubt.

However, it is not only that plan but other projects as well as the international peacemakers' maps which could be thrown into confusion if they are made public. Including if the Bosnian and Krajina Serbs unite in a single republic. They have ideas on that score and have been discussing them increasingly often.

But now, in my opinion, there is only one proper subject for discussion. The latest NATO "thrashing," which is, furthermore, a highly crude implement which will do nothing to pacify the unyielding Serbs.

Moscow May Withdraw Peacekeepers from Former Yugoslavia

LD2211175094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 22 Nov 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Director of the International Organizations Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Aleksandr Gorelik told Interfax today that the growing tension in ex-Yugoslavia made Moscow consider the issue of possible withdrawal of Russian "blue helmets" from the region.

He said that when initiating the meeting of the UN Security Council on Monday Russia wanted to examine all aspects of the situation emerged after the bombardment of the Krajina Serb positions by the NATO aviation.

Gorelik said Russia had raised the issue of if the NATO air attack was an adequate response to the situation. He said Russia was told by the UN officials that the response was in line with the serious situation as the previous air attacks carried out from Serb Krajina were a threat to the civilian population and violated the status of "safe regions." He said that, furthermore, air attacks by Krajina Serbs represented a threat for the UN contingent stationed in the safe zone of Bihac.

Gorelik said Russia had taken the explanation into consideration. "The appeal of the UN to NATO seems to be really adequate to the serious situation," he added. He said the UN had warned Krajina Serbs beforehand. The UN officials said that the "double key principle" (UN-NATO) had not been violated. "However, we will continue to examine the situation on the basis of more complete information which we expect to receive from the UN and NATO," he added.

Gorelik said that as a result of the recent developments the command of the UN operation in Croatia had put on alert all units of the UN blue helmets stationed in the safety zones defended by the peacekeeping forces. He said he had information proving that all women belonging to the UN mission had been evacuated from the region.

Gorelik stressed that the Moslem government had been escalating armed confrontation during the recent weeks. "If this point is ignored this may lead to a unilateral and biased policy," he said.

Karasin on Need For Bosnia Cease-Fire

LD2211160894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1324 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Russian Foreign Ministry held its regular news conference. Grigoriy Karasin, director of the information department, reported to those present on the country's foreign policy on current issues.

One topic covered was Andrey Kozyrev's visit to France: during talks in Paris it was stressed that Europe must protect its own interests. Also touched on was the forthcoming visit to Japan by Oleg Soskovets; incidentally, it was noted that Tokyo is preparing a second consignment of humanitarian aid for residents of the Kuril islands.

Relations between Russia and Poland were discussed, in the light of the recent incident at the Eastern station in Warsaw. Grigoriy Karasin noted that relations should be developed on all levels between the two states, and everything possible should be done to prevent the event from being repeated.

The topic of the Balkans was covered separately, specifically the bombing of Krajina Serb positions by NATO aircraft. As is known, the Russian Foreign Ministry backed the Security Council's Resolution 958, envisaging tough measures, but nonetheless it has its own view. Here is Grigoriy Karasin.

[Begin Karasin recording] The participation of Krajina Serbs in operations against a safe area cannot be justified. But it is only one element in a very complex situation. Russia believes that the optimal way to defuse the situation would be to conclude agreements on a cease-fire under the aegis of the United Nations with all the forces drawn into the conflict around Bihac. This would also allow the questions of the return of refugees and the provision of supplies to the Bangladeshi UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] battalion trapped in the area of Bihac to be solved.

We also consider necessary the demilitarization of this safe area, the absence of which led to the latest outbreak of hostilities, destabilizing the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. In order to prevent such crises in the future, it is also necessary to define clearly the status of safe areas introduced to protect the civilian population, the territory of which must not be used for offensive or other provocative activities. [end recording]

Croatia Troops on 'High Alert' After Air Strike

LD2211152294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia's peacekeeping battalion, based at Clisse (Croatia) has been put on high alert following regional tension in the wake of the NATO air strike on the Krajina Serbs at Udbina on November 21. This was reported to Interfax by Valeriy Belyayev, chief of the Russian Air-Borne Troops Staff, following his telephone conversation Tuesday with Colonel Aleksandr Nizhegorodov, the Russian peacekeepers' commander.

According to Belyayev, the battalion's command has reinforced convoys and has been keeping contact with representatives of the Serbs and Croats to head off provocations against Russian paratroopers.

He reported that the air strike did not hit Russian troops' positions, and no Russians were hurt.

He said that Russian peacekeepers have been carrying out planned operations to maintain peace in the region.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Signs Self-Government Edict

MM2311101194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Nov 94 First Edition p 1

[Russian Presidential Edict No. 2093, signed by Yeltsin and dated 21 November 1994: "On Certain Questions of the Early Cessation of the Powers of Heads of Local Self-Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to ensuring the permanent functioning of organs of local self-government in the future pending the adoption of federal laws and Russian Federation component normative legal acts on the organization of local self-government, I decree, guided by Articles 80 and 90 of the Russian Federation Constitution, that:

In the event of heads of local self-government (administration heads, mayors, elders, and so forth) being unable to exercise their powers for a long period (of more than four months in succession) the heads of the executive authorities in krays, oblasts, cities of federal status, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs shall be given the right to appoint acting heads of local self-government and decide the issue of holding early elections for the head of local self-government.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] 21 November 1994, Moscow, the Kremlin,
No. 2093

Yeltsin Issues Judicial Reform Decree

LD2311092194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—President Yeltsin has issued a decree on the creation of a council for the judicial reform. According to the decree, the council has been assigned to coordinate the work of ministries and other institutions for purposes of effectively carrying out the judicial reform, and to prepare proposals to the president on shaping the state policy, aimed at the establishment of the judicial system as an authority, which will be independent in its actions both from the legislative and executive bodies.

The presidential decree adopted regulations on the council for the judicial reform, as well as its make-up.

Yeltsin on Estonian Border Situation

LD2311101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 23 Nov 94 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pskov November 23 TASS—"Construction of border facilities on the Russian-Estonian frontier is one of the main aims of my trip to the Pskov region," said President Boris Yeltsin on his arrival in Pskov on Wednesday.

In the president's opinion, the border "should be securely protected and humane to people at the same time". The president noted that Russians should enjoy a free passage from Estonia to visit their relatives in the Pskov region.

"I'm developing an impression that things are not going well with construction of facilities on the border," Yeltsin noted.

He stressed that the Russian-Estonian border now "is not a safe place", since it is much weaker as compared with the former border of the Soviet Union which ran along the outside perimeter of the Baltic republics: "We withdrew technology from that border, took away air defence installations. They are inoperable on the Russian- Estonian border for the time being.

"The passage system is only in operation." The Russian leader noted that "Baltic smugglers and spies from several countries now use the Russian-Estonian border to infiltrate into Russia".

The president intends to examine construction of border facilities, diplomatic steps and social issues together with Commander of Russian Border Troops Andrey Nikolayev and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who accompany him in his trip to the Pskov region.

The chief executive also noted that, following a visit to the Pechory monastery, he will meet regional leaders and discuss problems of the region.

Tours Border Area

LD2311083594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0712 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 23 Nov—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Pskov this morning.

He is expected to make a tour of the oblast, which is to include a helicopter flight over a section of the Russian-Estonian border in Pechorskiy rayon from the island of Kolpin in Pskov lake to the town of Pechory, as well as visits to the border town and to the Pskov- Pechory monastery.

In the Pskov Kremlin and the Holy Trinity Cathedral the president is expected to take part in a discussion on the restoration of historical and architectural monuments. He will also hold a conference with the leadership of Pskov oblast and a meeting with journalists.

Soskovets Aide Denies Replacement by Chubays

LD2211142694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1224 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Yuriy Mikhailov, advisor of Russian first vice-premier Oleg Soskovets, rejected today media reports that his boss had been replaced by another first vice-premier Anatoliy Chubays in the capacity of the head of the state commission for improving the payments system in Russia.

Mikhailov told TASS that, according to the prime minister's resolution signed in November, the commission shall be headed by Oleg Soskovets and "any replacement of its chairman is out of the question".

Russia's Choice Party Favors Government Changes

LD2211175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow 22 Nov (TASS)—Russia's Democratic Choice Party does not want preterm parliamentary elections as they will not promote a stable work of the government. But it believes such developments are likely and will be preparing for them. Yegor Gaydar, the leader of Russia's Democratic Choice Party, stated this at a news conference on Tuesday. He summed up the results of a plenum of the party's council held last Saturday.

Russia's Democratic Choice Party favours a change in the government's activity, while it criticised the government's previous policy.

Democrats should consider rallying. Therefore Russia's Democratic Choice Party suggests that they temporarily drop the discussion of a presidential candidature of democratic forces, the question that prompts differences. Gaydar believes it will be more suitable to tackle this problem when the results of the election to the State Duma become known. Gaydar urged democrats to form a broad, responsible democratic coalition in majority constituences. Gaydar believes this tactic will lead to replacing national- socialist majority in the Duma with a democratic majority and to the consolidation of the reformer section in the cabinet.

Gaydar categorically rejected the assertion about a split in Russia's Choice faction. He said that its core is united.

Zhirinovskiy Predicts Kremlin Coup

LD2211133994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leader of the Russian Liberal- Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy thinks that a Kremlin coup is going to occur by the end of the year on a Friday. He made the warning at a Monday meeting with voters in Shcholkovo near Moscow.

He compared the current situation in the country with the last month of rule of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The leader of Liberal Democrats offered his own way out of the political crisis: simultaneous elections of the president, the Duma speaker and the head of the cabinet next spring. Zhirinovskiy said: "Russia does not need the Federation Council, a unicameral parliament is enough."

Answering a question from Interfax he said that if the Duma raises the question of early presidential elections, the Liberal Democratic group will support it 100 percent. However, so far his group is not putting forward such a demand, Zhirinovskiy said.

Duma Speaker on Yeltsin, Budget, Elections

LD2211172994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The State Duma's speaker Ivan Rybkin believes that if efforts succeed to work out "a smooth conference procedure" to elaborate the draft of a federal budget for 1995, by taking into account not only the cabinet proposals but also those of parliament and federation territories, the budget will be adopted. He declared this while commenting, in an interview with Interfax, on a statement made by the leader of Russia's Choice group in the State Duma Yegor Gaydar on Saturday, when he suggested that if the State Duma turns down the budget President Yeltsin may dissolve parliament, and early elections could take place already in spring of next year.

Rybkin presumed that "Gaydar may have got tired of endless calls by some faction leaders for early elections, so when he repeated that, the other side became silent immediately."

He ridiculed some lawmakers for their attempts to "look like their foreign counterparts who have an advanced parliamentary democracy."

According to Rybkin, in some developed country, the leader of a parliamentary group, having support from 40 percent or a bit more of the electorate, may risk bilateral elections because he will either receive 10 percent of the votes and thereby guarantee his group's parliamentary majority or will lose this 10 percent, which, in Rybkin's view, is a trifle.

However, he criticized some Russian lawmakers for applying this tactic to themselves. In his opinion, "it is illogical and unjustified, to insanely seek early elections, relying on just 10-12 percent of the electorate."

Rybkin believes that "the balance presented in the Duma now matches the balance of strength and perceptions in Russia as a whole. And agreement with the president and government should be sought within this balance."

Russia Prepares To Join Council of Europe

LD2211131694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1159 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Russian Foreign Ministry, jointly with parliament deputies are preparing for Russia joining the Council of Europe next spring. This statement was made by Russian Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin at a meeting on Tuesday with a Finnish parliament delegation led by its speaker Riitta Uosukainen. The delegation is in Moscow for an official visit.

Acquainting the guests with the activities of the lower house of the Federal Assembly, Rybkin said that on Tuesday evening the Duma Council jointly with First Deputy Russian Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays and Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov will consider the draft federal budget for 1995, to be debated on Friday.

Rybkin said that on Wednesday the State Duma is to vote on Tatyana Paramonova, candidate to head the Russian Central Bank.

Yasin Calls To Liberalize Fuel, Energy Complex

LD2211181194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1640 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Russian Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Yasin has called for liberalization of the fuel and energy complex and abolition of special oil exporters.

According to information of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the country lost 400 million tonnes of fuel over the past four years, which is 40 per cent of the domestic needs. The annual oil losses are estimated at 50 million tonnes. The mining industry cannot work without state allocations, and geological prospecting has been cut by four times.

According to well-informed government sources, a report of Interior Minister Viktor Yerin to first Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets that dwells on the crime situation in the fuel and energy complex testifies to the need for structural reorganization of the branch. In the words of Anatoliy Chubays, the absence of sufficient investments in the oil industry is mainly explained by the crime situation in the complex.

The minister of economy called for abolition of benefits and export regulation through quotas and licenses at today's meeting of the government commission. He suggested to introduce export dues to be imposed on all oil exports. The domestic price on raw oil is expected to increase by 1.8-2.6 times, and the price rise on energy resources will amount to 15-20 per cent. The Russian president has signed a decree on cancellation of quotas and licenses on oil products since January 1, 1995.

In the words of Deputy Minister of Finance Aleksandr Samusev, the new system of exports regulation provides for another procedure to use the pipelines. The ministry of economy wants to introduce an access to the pipelines proportionate to the oil extraction, and a system of access sales at an auction.

Yasin believes that the abolition of special oil exporters will enable oil companies to decide on sale of their products by themselves.

The minister also thinks that the situation is most grave in nuclear power engineering and the mining industry. He suggested to introduce an additional ten-per cent excise on gas, and use the proceeds in the aforesaid branches.

Yasin on Absence of Foreign Investment Controls

LD2211172694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS Vladimir Zadera]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—Russia is lacking a single system to control and estimate foreign investments, Russian Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Yasin told a meeting of the Consultative Council for Foreign Investments in Russia here today.

According to the Russian State Committee for Statistics, foreign investments in Russia made in 1993 are estimated at 2.7 billion U.S. dollars, while the Institute of Economy of the Russian Academy of Sciences claims there were 4.5 billion dollars worth of them without taking into account credits and portfolio investments.

Meeting participants forecasted some three billion U.S. dollars worth of direct foreign investments to be made in 1995. A single system to control foreign investments is being created under the Russian Ministry of Economy, which will be supervised by Deputy Minister of Economy Vladimir Kosov.

In the words of Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Yasin, the ministry will not initiate large investments projects, but offer their expert estimation and create favorable macro-economic conditions.

Foreign investments are a subject of fierce competition in the world which is much influenced by conditions of trade, financing, transfer of technologies, tax policy and protection of intellectual property, First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays told the meeting.

He denounced the campaign to discredit the idea of large-scale foreign investments in Russian economy and described it as merely political and speculative. According to the first vice-premier, shares of privatized Russian ventures are sold on a contest basis equal for all market participants. However, there are certain limits for foreign investor in purchasing shares of defence plants.

Chernomyrdin Signs 'Urgent' Economic Decree

MM2211150194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 2

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1245, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin and dated 16 November 1994: "On Urgent Measures To Prepare the National Economy For Work in the Fall-Winter Period of 1994-1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to ensuring the implementation of measures to prepare the national economy for work in the fall-winter period of 1994-1995, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, by agreement with the Russian Federation State Tax Service, shall, on the basis of representations from the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, carry out by the end of 1994 monthly mutual redemptions (offset payments), including payment by state treasury bonds, of the sums due to be paid to the federal budget by individual enterprises and organizations in the defense, agro-industrial, and fuel and energy complexes, in the science sector, and under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, and of the sums owing to the federal budget in relation to the funding of the aforesaid enterprises and organizations in 1994. This mutual redemption shall envisage offsetting the debts of federal-budget-funded consumers of fuel and energy resources by way of a reduced tax charge to the aforesaid budget for enterprises in the fuel and energy complex—including nuclear power generators—and shall also examine, as and where necessary, the question of deferring the collection of federal taxes.

Russian Federation component executive organs and organs of local self-government shall carry out similar offset operations relating to monies owed to Russian Federation component budgets and to local budgets.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall:

grant under the established procedure to nuclear power stations and enterprises involved in the nuclear fuel cycle a deferment on remitting to the federal budget the profits tax and VAT due to be levied in the second half of 1994;

ensure the repayment in the form of treasury bonds of the monies owed to nuclear power stations for the electricity they have generated, specifying in contracts with authorized deposit-takers terms under which not less than 30 percent of the treasury bonds received by the accounts of regional power-generation and electrification joint-stock companies and the Russian Power-Generation and Electrification Joint-Stock Company shall be transferred to the "Rosenergoatom" concern or to its nuclear power stations to repay debts incurred before 1 October 1994.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall ensure, by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, funding for enterprises and facilities included in the state investment program for 1994 and whose inclusion increases the reliability of fuel and energy supplies to the national economy and the population, within the limits of the quotas for budget funds laid down by the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy.

4. The Government Commission for Issues of Credit Policy shall:

examine in November 1994, following submissions from the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction, the question of extending to 1995-1996 the timetable for the repayment of centralized credits issued in 1992-1993 to certain fuel and energy complex enterprises—including nuclear power generators—and to Russian Federation components to fund work to prepare municipal services for the winter and to purchase fuel;

examine and rapidly adopt under the established procedure decisions to issue centralized credits for additional purchases of fuel for the population, municipal services, and power generating enterprise during sharp periods of cold weather in the winter.

5. With a view to increasing fuel-oil resources, the proposals from the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy and the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy for additional shipments to Russian oil refineries of not less than 2 million tonnes of oil in the fourth quarter of 1994 and for the restriction from October 1994 through April 1995 of exports of fuel oil shall be adopted, and the aforesaid ministries shall be instructed to take the necessary measures to implement them. Coordinated proposals following the established procedure shall be submitted on issues requiring a decision from the Russian Federation Government.

6. The "Gazprom" Russian Joint-Stock Company and the Russian Power Generation and Electrification Joint-Stock Company shall envisage the additional delivery to and utilization by power stations in the fourth quarter of 1994 of not less than 1.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas from underground storage facilities to ensure the reliability of energy supplies.

7. Russian Federation component executive organs shall be instructed to take measures to ensure the creation by municipal services' power-supply enterprises and other consumers of the necessary coal and fuel-oil stocks in November 1994.

It shall be laid down that the prices for fuel sold to the population (coal, peat and coal briquettes, firewood, furnace fuel, and other similar types of fuel) as well as kerosene shall be ratified by Russian Federation component executive organs taking account of measures to provide social protection for the population under the procedure and on the terms laid down by Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree

No. 935 of 22 September 1993 "On the Transition to a New System of Payment for Housing and Municipal Services and the Procedure for Granting Compensation (Subsidies) to Citizens When Paying for Housing and Municipal Services" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No. 39, 1993, Article 3620) and by Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree No. 1329 of 23 December 1993 "On Additions to Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Decree No. 935 of 22 September 1993" (SOBRANIYE AKTOV PREZIDENTA I PRAVITELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII No.239, 1993, Article 5092).

8. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Construction shall submit proposals within two weeks on the organization of budget funding in 1995 for measures to prepare for work in the fall-winter period, taking account of long-term expenditure on the extraction, processing, and transportation of fuel and energy resources.

9. The Russian Federation Government Commission for Current Issues shall regularly examine at its sessions the progress in carrying out this decree.

[Signed] Russian Federation Premier V. Chernomyrdin

[Dated] Moscow, 16 November 1994
No. 1245

Panskov Anticipates Budget Revenue, Bank Credits

MM2211133794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Credit Will Help the Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the opinion of Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov, the anticipated implementation level of Russia's state budget for 1994 in terms of revenue will total 55 percent. He voiced that opinion during a meeting at the Finance Ministry Saturday [19 November) with leaders of Russia's leading mass media.

Answering a question from ITAR-TASS, the minister added that, bearing in mind the Central Bank credits which are being channeled into reducing the budget deficit, the implementation level might reach 74 percent. In this connection he recalled that of late state short-term bonds, which enjoy prestige among the country's commercial structures, have been making their presence felt with increasing confidence. They are regarded as one means of covering the budget deficit.

Yeltsin Announces Social Aid Plan

LD2311111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pskov November 23 TASS—Boris Yeltsin announced his intention to issue a decree on measures to aid depressed areas of Russia on arriving in Pskov on Wednesday.

According to the president, some five or six areas in Russia are the hardest hit. He noted that "It is necessary to issue a decree or a special government decision and grant some privileges to those areas".

The Russian leader described the social and economic situation in the Pskov region as "very difficult and may be one of the most difficult in Russia". According to the chief executive, the Altay territory which was struck by a drought and floods this year, is also among depressed areas.

Ministry Notes Regional Monetary Income Levels

MM2211122594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Nov 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Our Income Is Somewhere In Between the Minimum and the Maximum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The individual monetary income of the population of half of the Russian regions does not exceed 200,000 rubles [R] a month, or 1.5 times the subsistence minimum, the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor informed INTERFAX on Thursday. At the same time, according to specialists' calculations, a minimum of R300,000 per person a month is required in order to ensure relatively acceptable living conditions.

New 'Express' Satellite Series Launched

LD2211174994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1531 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Bakina and Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—All Russian communications satellites of the "Horizon" series will be replaced by a new generation craft, the "Express," in the coming three-four years, deputy director of the Russian Space Agency Yuriy Milov told a press conference on Tuesday. He said the first satellite of the new series was launched in October.

Milov, who is also chairman of the state commission on "Express" launches, said the new satellite with 12 relaying installations would be operated for seven years. However, many technical parameters of Russian communications satellites are inferior to those of Western counterparts. In particular, their life-time in orbit is twofold shorter and channel capacities are only a quarter of Western satellites'.

However, price is a major attraction of the Russian satellites: Purchase of seven and launches of six Russian satellites are worth only 150 million dollars under a contract between the Russian joint- stock company "Informcosmos" and U.S. "Rimsat Ltd."

No budget money was diverted to produce the "Express" launched in October. The "Express" production by "Informcosmos" in a new market environment was sponsored by investors. Now the satellites' channels are leased to other states. The Russian satellites mediate London-Tel Aviv, Lebanon-United States and Baku-New York communications. The satellites will be sold or leased to the international agency "Intersatellite" and to "Rimsat Ltd" which first launched the Russian communications satellites to serve the Asia-Pacific region.

The 1993 contract between "Informcosmos" and "Rimsat Ltd" requires the Russians to place the "Horizon" satellites and later the more sophisticated "Express" satellites at seven geostationary orbital deployment loci owned by the Tongan Kingdom, Oceania. "Rimsat" has been licenced by the "Tonga Sat" company to use the deployment loci. The Russian signatory may use the rest of relays as it will.

Russia plans to use its military space forces in launching two more "Express" satellites in 1995. One will work for Russia, the other is likely to be leased.

Lack of Funds Lowers Missile Readiness

MM2211143394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Dolinin under the "Topical Theme" rubric: "Russia Could Be Left without Missiles. Russia Needs 900-1,000 or Even More Launchers to Maintain the Strategic Missile Forces Balance in the World. Will We Manage to Preserve that Quantity?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let us recall that over 50 percent of the launchers in the Strategic Missile Forces' effective strength today are of stationary basing mode. The rest are RS-12M "Topol" road-mobile missile systems and RS-22 rail-mobile systems. Each individual system has its own operational life, which, as a rule, averages around 10 years. There are several hundred missile systems which have reached the end of that operating life and are fit only for melting down as scrap. And that is what will happen to them accordance with START I and START II, which will be implemented after ratification.

But this applies to those "old-timers" which have been in service twice their operating life. However, the bulk of the Strategic Missile Forces grouping consists of tried and tested missile systems capable of continuing in service. Their operational life will gradually come to an end, but that can be extended and the missiles can be kept on the effective strength. This applies to almost half of the missile systems. However, because of the shortage of appropriations for servicing (only one-third of the amount required this year) the condition of these systems is verging on the critical.

As Colonel General Vladimir Nikitin, deputy commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces, explained, you can assess the technical readiness of a system from the indicator of its reliability, that is, its capacity to ensure a successful missile launch and the activation of the nuclear device. This vital indicator is at the required level today, but in the next two years there is the danger that it will sharply diminish unless the minimum amount of funds needed to ensure the reliable servicing of the hardware (amounting to less than 1 percent of the country's military budget) is found.

One symptom of reduced reliability is the increased amount of time taken to rectify defects in launchers. In recent years that time has almost doubled. The reason is simple: The spare parts, tools, and accessories kit are almost worn out and there are virtually no replacements. If the shortage persists, next year, according to the specialists, one missile launcher in five (!) will be in need of repair. If the necessary resources are not found, the program for extending the missiles' operational life (which is economically sound and beneficial to the state, incidentally) will not be fulfilled and by the year 2000 the Strategic Missile Forces could have scarcely more than 100 missile launchers left. According to the experts' assessments, the state's national security will be under threat.

Furthermore, having survived the arms race, we are now getting into a disarmament race which, with its frantic pace, is just as costly. The dismantling of launchers and the recycling of missiles takes years and costs about three times as much as maintaining the missile systems on active service. Furthermore, do not think that the scrapping of missiles will yield dividends. Unfortunately, the investment here is not self-financing. Nor should it be forgotten that scrapping hardware of this kind is a hazardous process. And that hazard increases as the work becomes more intensive. Consequently, in the prevailing situation, it makes economic sense to extend the operating life of those missiles capable of further service. Not so as to "brandish the nuclear missile shield," of course, but because of the reality of the need to ensure Russia's security and its economic potential.

At the same time, it is also true that whether you modernize the missiles or not, one day they will still reach the end of their operational life. What replacements are planned for them? Hopes are being pinned on the silo-based and road-mobile "Topol M" missile system. With a single-warhead solid-fuel missile. Our missile designers have already built it and, what is more, it is entirely due to Russian production-sharing. It has been produced in accordance with the president's edict and on schedule. In October the missile was delivered to the state testing ground at Mirnyy in Arkhangelsk Oblast. A launch is planned. An historic event nowadays, perhaps, but.... The "Topol M" will go into polar orbit and demonstrate its capabilities, but what then? A series of "Topols" is needed if they are to go into active service. Once again it all boils down to the lack of funds.

So that is the result. It turns out that even without the disarmament treaties Russia could find itself with no missiles. But even though the Strategic Missile Forces are the smallest numerically and most "economical" branch of the Armed Forces, not even 5 percent of the defense budget is being spent on maintaining them.

Edict Recreates FCS Investigation Body

LD2311093894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0923 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree recreating the investigation directorate within the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) of the Russian Federation, the presidential press service reported today.

The same decree restores units of investigators within the bodies of the FCS.

Yeltsin Decrees Formation of FCS Crime Unit

LD2311111094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0945 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—The press service cited the document as saying that the creation of investigative bodies within the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] "was aimed at higher efficiency of combat against crime, quicker and more comprehensive detection of crimes which are within the scope of activities of the state security bodies in conformity with the legislation of the Russian Federation".

According to the decree, investigative bodies within the Federal Counterintelligence Service will organise and conduct preliminary investigation into cases within their competence.

The personnel of the Federal Counterintelligence Service will increase by one thousand servicemen and civic staff, to meet the aforesaid objectives, the press service said.

Yerin on Organized Crime, 'Alleged' Threat

LD2211140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Golyayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naples November 22 TASS—Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin denied allegations that the situation in Russia is controlled by Mafia and accused Western mass media of using "cold war"-time rhetorics to intimidate their readers by an alleged new threat coming from Russia.

"The situation in Russia is by no means determined by the activities of the organised crime. We have enough forces to keep the situation under control", Yerin told TASS on Tuesday and rejected Western accusations that "Russia is becoming the main Mafia-controlled country".

Yerin, who is participating in the world UN conference in Italy devoted to the anti-crime fight, stressed that "we do not share the distorted assessments published by some mass media about the danger of the spread of organised crime from the territory of the former USSR and Russia in particular".

He added that such statements "remind of 'Cold War' time terminology". "If earlier the average man in the West was intimidated by the communist threat from the East, now it is being done by banditism. Attempts have been noted to use the crime situation for political and economic isolation of Russia, for curtailing (foreign) investments and blocking market reforms", Yerin stressed.

The Russian minister said he expects from the Naples conference an objective analysis of the problems posed by Mafia in various countries. "This should be a dialogue of professionals, an exchange of information and experience", he said and added that "we are with great interest acquainting ourselves with the unique Italian anti- Mafia experience, but we can also share our own secrets".

Yerin also said Russian investigators would be undoubtedly sent to study in the international school which is to be set up in Italy. However, he recalled that 20 institutes already exist in Russia which train top class professionals. "Russia has what to share with Western colleagues", he stressed.

Italian Justice Minister Alfredo Biondi also supports the idea of cooperation in anti-Mafia fight. "If we begin to compete with each other, we shall not progress in the fight with international criminal organisations. Only by uniting our efforts, experience and knowledge we can and must rout the empire of evil", he told TASS.

Officials Arrest Kholodov Murder Suspect

LD2211201494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A man has been arrested on suspicion of complicity in the murder of Dmitriy Kholodov, a Moskovskiy Komsomolets reporter, on October 17 Russia's Deputy Prosecutor General Oleg Gaydanov told journalists Tuesday. He said that the arrested man was one of the two whom Defense Minister Pavel Grachev had named as suspects in the killing.

Gaydanov said that the investigating team which includes Prosecutor General's Office, Federal Counterintelligence Service and Interior Ministry officials were confident that the case would be solved because they had sufficient evidence to think so.

According to Gaydanov, the team believe that Kholodov was killed because of what he had discovered as an investigating journalist and intended to publish.

There was no evidence in support of the accident or personal grievance theories.

Gaydanov said that 250 witnesses had been questioned and over 10 tests carried out.

Kholodov's stay in Chechnya on October 4 and 5 and his trip to the Ryazan Region have been thoroughly checked.

Gaydanov also said that the findings of the investigation were reported daily to the acting prosecutor general.

Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Yegorov and Deputy Federal Counterintelligence Service Director Nikolay Kovalyov attended the meeting.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on New Information Department

LD2211133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1247 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 November (ITAR-TASS)—Boris Yeltsin today signed a decree in accordance with which three information structures of the presidential administration are joined together. An information directorate of the presidential administration is being set up on the basis of the information service directorate, the press service and the center for up-to-date information. There will be 70 staff in the new department, the presidential press service has reported.

The report does not say who will head the new directorate. However, it is known for certain that the current presidential press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, is resigning.

Yeltsin on Mass Media, Meets Radio Chiefs

LD2211142494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1316 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Valeriy Samfirov is calling us from the Kremlin with an urgent and important report:

[Samfirov] Hello, as you know, today the Russian president is meeting with representatives of the radio companies in the Kremlin, and the occasion for the meeting is a momentous event: Tomorrow is the 70th anniversary of the foundation of Russian broadcasting, when on 23 November 1924 on Moscow Radio the first edition of Radio Gazeta went out.

In this connection Boris Nikolayevich cordially congratulated all the radio workers and especially our veterans.

"For my generation—and not only mine are bound up with radio—you have always helped us in difficult moments and have even sometimes helped me to live—and not only me but all Russians," the Russian president said.

But, opening the meeting, Boris Nikolayevich noted in surprise that there are so many new faces. Indeed, 16 editors-in-chief of state and private companies were invited to the Kremlin, among them Radio Rossii, M Radio, Europe Plus, Ekho Moskvy, and of course Radio Mayak. As many of you know, from "The President's Notes" program, it is Mayak radio station that is always switched on in the president's kitchen.

What else was there at Boris Nikolayevich's meeting? He noted that radio is now the most accessible mass information medium. He particularly stressed that while most of the population does not have money to buy newspapers, let alone a television set, it is the radio which remains the only means of obtaining information. In this connection he noted the need to watch out for the purity of the ether.

In fact, it is not unfortunately the jubilee but bitter reality which makes him meet with the editors-in-chief of radio companies. As you know, now there is discussion of the question of reorganization of TV and radio and this was the main question of discussion. Opening the discussion, Boris Nikolayevich sharply condemned the knee-jerk reaction of journalists to the possibility of a merger of Ostankino TV and radio with Russian TV and radio. That is a long way ahead, the president said, and I myself do not know yet what sort of reorganization it will be.

The meeting is continuing and we will tell you the details later. Thank you.

[Announcer] And so it is a long way ahead—that is good news!

Yeltsin Looks For TV, Radio 'Options'

LD2211185194

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1552 GMT on 22 November broadcasts a two-minute item from the "Novosti" newscast in which Andrey Murtazin reports on Yeltsin's meeting with heads of Russian radio companies today.

Opening the session, Yeltsin says radio is still an important source of information for Russians, Murtazin says. It was essential, especially for those who fate decreed should live outside Russia. The president thanked the radio men for their difficult work and recalled the nostalgic times when you could hear "Theater at the Microphone," broadcasts about trailblazers, and famous writers and actors could be heard on the radio, as well as singers.

"That was real professionalism," Yeltsin says reading from his script, "raising the cultural standard of the populace. Such radio was truly national."

Now radio has been commercialized, alongside the state programs there have emerged a lot of commercial radio stations, which have gained an audience, Murtazin says, adding that both sides had problems that the conversation with the president dwelled on.

A.P. Tupikin, director general of radio broadcasting at Ostankino State TV and Radio Company, interviewed outside the Kremlin, says he is happy that they had a workmanlike conversation and the president realized that the fact that the 1995 budget allocation covered their needs by only 25 percent was no good and he says he hopes Yeltsin will help in this.

Murtazin says fears about the imminent merger of Ostankino and Russian TV were exaggerated. Yeltsin says, still reading from script, that it is regrettable that some journalists commented before a decision had been taken about TV reorganization—we are just looking at various options for reorganization.

Gaydar on Media Policy, Opposes TV Merger

LD2211211194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1253 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Nov—Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Choice parliamentary faction, today supported his faction colleague Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Liaison.

Yegor Gaydar said at the news conference that by introducing amendments to the law on the media, which provides for a ban on bodies of power founding their own media (and it is precisely this which is giving rise to most criticism of him), Mikhail Poltoranin was expressing the opinion of all factions. "We discussed this question, believing it to be important for ensuring real freedom of the press, and we voted for it," he added. The Russia's Choice leader stressed that the faction includes people whose political views are often at odds on some point or other, and there is no ban on freedom of speech within it.

Yegor Gaydar categorically condemned the plans for a merger of the two state Russian television companies. In his opinion, this plan will be of no economic advantage, but will lead to an increase in tension and confrontation between the creative intelligentsia, journalists, and the president.

Federal Assembly

Finance Minister Rules Out Changes to Draft Budget

LD2211210694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1413 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Nov—Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov has urged the agrarians in the Duma to take a balanced approach to the draft federal budget for 1995. He was speaking today at an extended session of the State Duma commission for agrarian questions, which discussed problems of the fulfillment of the federal budget for 1994 in the section on financing the agro-industrial complex and the draft budget for next year.

Panskov ruled out the possibility of amending the draft law on the budget that was presented by the government to the Duma. Moreover, he made it perfectly clear to the deputies that the government would rather resign than permit the paragraphs in the budget on expenditures to be changed in favor of increasing the deficit. At the same time, the finance minister assured the parliamentarians that he "would fight to the end to ensure that the revenue put into the draft budget is real and is fulfilled 100 percent."

Panskov's appeal, however, was left unanswered: The committee adopted recommendations in which it rejected the government's version of the draft federal budget for 1995. The essence of the agrarians' remarks boils down to the fact that a further reduction in appropriations for the development of the agro-industrial complex "would lead to the final destruction of the agrarian sector of the country's economy."

State Duma Rejects Paramonova as Central Bank Chief

LD2311115194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1130 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 23 Nov—The State Duma deputies voted today against appointing Tatyana Paramonova to the post of the chairman of the Russian Federation Central Bank.

In a secret ballot her candidacy was supported by only 107 deputies against 127 deputies who voted against. Nineteen abstained.

Votes for Emergency Anticrime Measures

LD2311134794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Nov 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only one deputy voted against and one abstained when the Russian State Duma adopted the draft decision on emergency measures to combat crime today. A total of 312 deputies voted in favor. The document deems the work of the law enforcement agencies extremely unsatisfactory. Among urgent steps to combat crime, the draft envisions changing the existing law on the militia, and introducing the post of deputy prime minister responsible for coordinating the actions of the executive bodies. It was proposed that the Russian president should submit a new candidate for the post of the country's procurator-general as soon as possible.

Adopts Draft Law on Minimum Wages

LD2311120594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—The federal draft law "On raising the minimal level of wages" suggests that, starting from January 1, 1995, the minimal wages will be 54,100 roubles. The State Duma voted today for adopting the draft law after first reading. This sum is equal to the minimal pension (34,400 roubles) plus the compensation (19,700 roubles). The minimal wages do not include allowances, benefits, prizes and other encouragement payments.

The previous increase of minimal wages took place in July 1994. Now they stand at 20,500 roubles.

Now the federal draft law will be submitted for the consideration of the president, the government, the Federation Council and subjects of the federation. Its final discussion will take place before December 12, this year.

Duma Committee Accepts Defense Budget, To Petition Yeltsin

MM2311144194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Nov 94 p 1

[Ekho Moskvy report under the "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and News Agency Correspondents Report" rubric: "In Order To Stand Our Ground, There Must Be Priorities!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation State Duma—"We agree to the allocation of 56 trillion rubles to military needs next year, but this is the minimum below which we must not fall," Nikolay Bezborodov, member of the State Duma Defense Committee, declared. "Moreover, we cannot manage here without comprehensive measures. In particular, it is necessary unequivocally to allocate priorities in the Armed Forces and in the defense industry, in order to work for the long term."

According to Nikolay Bezborodov, the Defense Committee will recommend the president to form a state commission to draw up a package of measures to strengthen and maintain the country's defense capability.

Regional Affairs

Forces On Alert in Chechnya, Prepare for Invasion

LD2211131194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The volunteer corps in Chechnya's Naura Region have been put on alert, combat ready, in light of the possibility of a new military invasion over the next few days, the General Staff of the Chechen armed forces told INTERFAX. It said this particular region would become the target of the next armed aggression from the Stavropol Territory (the Russian Federation) with the aim of occupying the northern Naura and Shelkovskoy regions.

According to the General Staff's sources, up to 50 armored vehicles and five-six infantry battalions have already been concentrated near the village of Veselyy in the Stavropol Territory, in the vicinity of the border with the Naura Region.

The Chechen Defense Ministry described the situation as tense, saying that in addition to this, the movement of troops was registered in neighboring Dagestan and new military contingents had arrived to Mozdok (North Ossetia).

The State Defense Committee, set up by President Dudayev, urged the world community to "condemn the Russian aggression against Chechnya."

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry has denied the reports about the involvement of the Russian troops in the events in Chechnya.

Small Arms Exchange Fire on Russian Border

LD2211153094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There was an exchange of fire Monday night on the border of the Naurskaya Region, Chechnya. According to the Chechen State Security Department, it involved small arms. Nobody was hurt on the side of home guards supporting President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The department also claimed that the concentration of Russian troops and equipment continues in Vesyoly, Stavropol region, Russia, on the border with the Naurskaya Region.

The prefect of Naurskaya Aindi Akhayev told Interfax that on Tuesday morning four combat helicopters with Russian identification marks violated the Chechen air space and flew over the region.

The head of the Chechen State Security Department Sultan Geliskhanov said an in an interview with Interfax that the seat of tension has shifted to the Naurskaya Region.

The Russian Defense Ministry has repeatedly denied Groznyy's claim about Russian involvement in Chechen developments.

'Secret' Islamic Battalions Forming

LD2211184794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Chechnya's official authorities have begun setting up Islamic battalions, Rasim Khatuyev, head of President Dudayev's press service, has told Ekho Moskvy.

[Begin Khatuyev recording] It is going ahead in secret. Regrettably, I do not have all the information, but I know that battalions are being formed, mainly in mountain areas, in secret. There is information that over 200-300 internationalist volunteers have already arrived from Islamic countries as instructors and organizers of Islamic battalions. They will be fully maintained and kept by the people. The people will feed them in their places of stationing. Islamic battalions do not get any remuneration and will not get any. In strict compliance with wartime norms, and as is appropriate for military subunits they will be issued with weapons, ammunition, and uniforms. [end recording]

[Announcer] Chechen Foreign Minister Shamsudin Yusef has said that the first volunteers are already prepared to arrive in the republic to defend its sovereignty. If Russian politicians have lost reason and are dreaming about war they will get it, the minister stressed.

Switching Economy To Meet Military Needs

LD2211172794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chechen State Defense Committee will instruct the government on Tuesday to work out a plan for switching the Chechen economy over to meeting military needs, sources in the State Defense Committee told Interfax. They also said that the power bodies and the volunteer corps had already received instructions to rebuff Russia's possible aggression.

Earlier, the State Defense Committee, consisting of nine members and led by President Dudayev, had introduced the term "occupied territory", saying that Russian troops had occupied part of the Nadterechnyy Region and were planning to occupy the northern Naura and Shelkovskoy regions.

The Chechen General Staff reports that 15 armored vehicles have been moved to Chechnya's Urus-Martan Region through Ingushetia, and joined to the 6 tanks belonging to the opposition Provisional Council, which broke into this region last week.

Dudayev on Moscow, Current Chechnya Issues

MM2211170194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Dzhokhar Dudayev Continues To Blame Moscow for Everything"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy—The road to Groznyy has become still longer. To the previous obstacles—canceled air routes and immobile trains on the approaches to the republic—have been added blown-up bridges on the main highway. Enterprising drivers, mostly private owners, take passengers by roundabout routes across mountain ridges from the closest "living" train stations in Northern Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Dagestan. They take them through settlements with armed posts, where travelers are investigated well: followers of Khasbulatov, Avturkhanov, Dudayev.... They know what to expect of whom.

The path to the doors of the president's office is also longer for a Russian journalist. At the entrance to the palace men with assault rifles made me shake out the contents of my bag, carefully investigating even the batteries for a dictaphone. Then people who monitor the Moscow press leafed through the IZVESTIYA file and, on discovering my articles, inquired where I had obtained information on events in Chechnya. They insistently recommended that I not use sources on the Interim Council. Finally, in the president's reception area, a dashing guardsman carefully searched me, whereas previously he had been satisfied with a cursory inspection of the things I was carrying.

As regards the tough security measures, they are evidently not at all superfluous in the present situation. I saw this for myself that same night. Soon after I left the presidential palace, the environs filled with the noise of a mine exploding, smashing the windows on the lower floors of that building, which is carefully guarded by detachments of guardsmen reinforced by armored personnel carriers during the nighttime.

The President Remains Sure of Himself

In an interview for IZVESTIYA, President D. Dudayev traditionally held Russia entirely responsible for criminalizing the situation in the republic. He maintained that precisely Russia feeds gangs of killers in Chechnya, supplies them with powerful weapons and aircraft, and even provides the means for carrying out acts of sabotage. Such a policy boomerangs on the Kremlin. For, contrary to the expectations of Moscow politicians, "Chechens have not broken one another's skulls" but have directed all hostility against an external "satanic force." The lion's share of the means of sabotage has also settled in Russia, giving rise to "uncontrollable processes" there.

Dudayev believes that the policy of support for the Chechen opposition was approved by B. Yeltsin as a result of ignorance about the real state of affairs. The Russian president's entourage portrays the opposition as an influential force in the Chechen Republic, whereas "they are criminals, for whom all the world's jails weep." They use the weapons they have received against the peaceful population and national economic targets

Answering a question about the possible nomination of his candidacy for a new term during the presidential election due in Chechnya in a year's time, my interlocutor directly linked his decision with the presence of "bandit groupings" in the republic. If they remain in Chechnya and do not lay down their arms, Dudayev "will not allow any elections here," since "it would simply be cowardly to hold elections in such an atmosphere." A free expression of will will be possible only if today's "bandits" "lay down their arms, become citizens, receive voting papers, and vote, like everyone, under observation by the world community." In such a situation, given international guarantees of the Chechen people's security, Dudayev said, "I probably will not nominate my candidacy," since "for many people my name is like a red rag to a bull."

Dudayev does not rule out the possibility that he will have to conclude a treaty with the neighboring state under a new Russian president, thereby demonstrating, as it were, the unshakable nature of his regime. At the same time he remains hopeful about the resumption of a productive dialogue with the present authorities in the Kremlin, believing that Yeltsin is capable of bold steps like those that he took in respect of the Baltic states at the start of his presidency. According to Dudayev's information, Chechnya's draft treaty with Russia received the approval of all practical people. Russian Premier V. Chernomyrdin was ready to sign it, not seeing in the document "anything that would infringe each other's interests." But influential persons in the president's entourage intervened in the dialogue, whom Dudayev called none other than "marauders from politics," and the settlement process was wrecked.

The president of the Chechen Republic made it clear that he remains loyal to Russia. According to him, he rejected the tempting projects of certain Western politicians aimed at playing the Caucasus card with a view to weakening the northern power. I also perceived the president's proposal that I not call him mister as a kind of confirmation of loyalty. "Moscow has misters now. We still have comrades," he explained, bowing to admirers of socialist traditions.

The readiness for dialogue with the Kremlin despite the negative reaction of official representatives of the Russian power to this makes one assume that the president of Chechnya no longer has any illusions about breaking the ring of isolation around the republic with the help of sympathetic neighbors in the North Caucasus. Actual results crowned neither the treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Great Don Cossack Host nor the agreement with Dagestan on the resumption of railroad traffic. The president stated with ill-concealed irritation: The republics are only intimidating Moscow with the possibility of seceding from Russia. The geographic location of Chechnya itself rules out any chance of acquiring sovereignty by demonstratively slamming the door.

What Is Cheap for a Muscovite Is Beyond the Means of a Resident of Groznyy

Looking at the meat stalls at the "Muslim" pavilion in the market, I could see that beef is being sold at "summer" prices here—2,500 rubles [R] per kilo. And the choice is not bad. The price of apples and pears and other local produce has stayed at August's level. In a cafe outside the market gates, I discovered old price lists and national meat dishes that were just as tasty as they always have been.

The visitor's delight at the cheapness of the food and the prosperity of the inhabitants of the Chechen capital fades when you start looking at the contents of the purses of the locals. The point is that in Groznyy it is not just prices that are lower than in Moscow, it is also incomes. Even high-ranking officials admitted to me that they earn no more than R150,000 a month. There are masses of unemployed people here. And old people have been deprived of their pensions. Those who travel to neighboring republics or to Stavropol to get them are forced to spend up to half of the money they receive on the bus fare.

The main thing that terrifies the inhabitants of the Chechen capital today is the growing armed confrontation, the around-the-clock shooting and increasingly frequent explosions. Whereas on previous visits here I heard the opposition and local Russians state their categorical desire to get rid of Dudayev as quickly as possible, as they associated the misfortunes that had befallen the republic with him, now the mood is starting to change. People are increasingly dreaming of power being concentrated in one pair of hands. Even in the hands of the current president.

Ukraine's UNSO Calls For 'Friendly' Brigades

AU2211173594 Kiev UKRAYINSKI OBRIYI in Ukrainian No. 13 (44) Oct 94 p 1

["Statement by the UNSO Command Regarding the Events in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

1. Chechnya's independence and power in the hands of General Dudayev conform to Ukraine's national interests.
2. Opposition does not exist. There are efforts by Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate and Armed Forces.
3. It is only through the efforts of its Armed Forces that Moscow is capable of resolving the problems of Chechnya.

UNSO [Ukrainian National Self-Defense] is ready to interact with Chechnya's armed formations in accordance with a procedure coordinated with the government of the Chechen Republic.

The UNSO command calls upon friendly Russian, Caucasian, and European organizations to create international brigades for the defense of the Chechen Republic.

[signed] The UNSO Command.

Ingush Council Critcizes Temporary Administrations

LD2211181694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran November 22 TASS—The Ingush Presidential Council has sharply criticized the activities of the temporary administration in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia.

A council meeting noted that the temporary administration "has not insured the fulfilment of presidential decrees to prolong the state of emergency in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia." In the opinion of the council, the administration also does not help to stabilize the regional situation.

"There is nothing to expect but unilateral decisions at a time when the temporary administration is located in Vladikavkaz and its leaders are being fully influenced by a conflicting side," head of the Ingush presidential administration Ruslan Pliyev told the council meeting.

According to reliable sources in the presidential administration, Ingush President Ruslan Aushev also thinks that the return of deported Ingushes to places of their permanent residents and fulfilment of decrees of the Russian president can be achieved only with the replacement of leaders of the temporary administration and change of its location.

Northwest Regions Form Union, Plan Budget Work

MK2211120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Tsvetkov: "Regional Parliaments Association. Northwest Lawmakers Will be Working Together"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The idea of bringing together lawmakers of all regions, which Federal Assembly deputies inherited from their Supreme Soviet counterparts, is starting to materialize at the local level. Late last week in Vologda, a conference of deputies of seven regions founded a Parliamentary Assembly of Russia's Northwest.

The Parliamentary Assembly was founded by the lawmakers of Volgograd, Kaliningrad, Arkhangelsk, Leningrad, Novgorod, and Pskov Oblasts, and Karelia. The delegations of representative bodies from Yaroslavl Oblast, St. Petersburg, and the Republic of Komi taking part in the meeting as observers, stated their intention to become full-fledged members of the organization in the nearest future. Gennadiy Khripel, speaker of the Volgograd Oblast legislative assembly, was elected Assembly chairman.

It was stressed in the conference that the first real thing the new assembly should do is to produce recommendations to the federal parliament and the government on putting together next year's budget and general principles of a budget and tax policy. During the next meeting, planned for the middle of next January, assembly members will also discuss some other no less urgent problems: a procedure for the formation of the Federation Council, relations between the regions and the Federal Assembly, and measures in preparing a legal base for the operation of local representative bodies.

Despite the fact that regional parliamentary associations compete in a sense with similar all-Russia organizations active under the wing of the Federal Assembly, the Russian parliament leaders view such associations quite favorably. Mikhail Mityukov, State Duma first deputy chairman, has described the process of creating a regional association of lawmakers as a "normal and fundamentally useful" thing because deputies of neighboring regions have to work in the same conditions and tackle similar problems.

Considering the fact that one of the main remaining problems for the majority of lawmakers is relations with the executive branch, it would not be all too hard for Federal Assembly deputies to find a common language with their regional counterparts.

Vologda Leaders Agree To Joint Activities

MM2311092394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Vakhrin: "Possible Even Without Ambitions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vologda Oblast—A meeting of the leaders of regional organizations of democratic parties and movements—"Russia's Democratic Choice," "Democratic Russia," the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES), the Association of Peasant (Private) Farms of Russia, and others—has been held on the initiative of Professor Guriy Sudakov, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in Vologda Oblast.

During the discussion of the problems facing the democratic movement in the oblast it transpired that, contrary to the example set by the capital, democrats in the provinces are divided neither by personal ambitions nor by their views of the reform strategy in the country. Those present agreed on mutual consultations and joint activity to elaborate draft laws for the oblast Duma. The first step will be a "round table" at which the oblast's draft charter [ustav] will be discussed.

Kabardino-Balkar Citizens Favor Unity Preservation

MM2211160794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 1

[Report from the press service of the Permanent Mission of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic under the Russian

Federation President under the rubric "From our Correspondents and News Agencies": "Balkars Against the Republic's Division"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A poll of citizens of Balkar nationality in Kabardino-Balkaria on the question of preserving the Kabardino-Balkar Republic's unity has been completed. Practically all citizens of Balkar nationality who had reached the age of 18 and have the right to vote took part in it throughout the republic's territory.

The overwhelming majority of those questioned—95.7 percent—came out in favor of the republic's integrity and categorically rejected any opportunity to divide it. In this way, the Balkar people's opinion diverged from the viewpoint of the leaders of the National Council of the Balkar People.

Makeup of Petersburg Assembly Reflects State Duma

MM2311123394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Factions' Motley Mosaic. St. Petersburg City Assembly A Rerun of State Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Taking account of the preliminary results of the by-elections to the St. Petersburg City Assembly on Sunday we can conclude that the makeup of the local "parliament" will resemble the Russian State Duma with its numerous factions, not one of which is capable of passing a single decision without consulting with the other blocs.

Of the nine City Assembly blocs the centrist "Beloved City" bloc has the largest number of deputies—eight. "All St. Petersburg" is second with five. "Communists of Leningrad" and "St. Petersburg Democratic Unity" have three each. The trade union "People's Consolidation Movement," "Russia's Democratic Choice," and the "Peter the Great" public fund for support for the population have two each. "Our City—Our Home" and "Unity For Progress" each have one deputy in the City Assembly.

The deputies elected include Yuriy Terentyev, second secretary of the Russian Communist Workers' Party; Igor Artemyev, leader of the Regional Party of the Center; and two characters who are well-known in the city—Arkadiy Kramarev, former chief of the Internal Affairs Main Administration; and Yuriy Novolodskiy, chief of the St. Petersburg City Hall Justice Administration.

Following the by-elections the City Assembly has 49 deputies, 22 of whom are independent. One seat remains unused [neispolzovannyym], since there should be 50 deputies in the parliament. Nonetheless, the assembly can now pass decisions that have the force of law.

There may still be some changes to the final results of the elections, but they will be partial in nature and will not have a substantive bearing on the disposition of forces in the City Assembly.

Seminar Opens on Izhevsk Chemical Weapons

LD2311113394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0826 GMT 23 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Artamonov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Izhevsk November 23 TASS—A seminar on the elimination of chemical weapons opened in the city of Izhevsk (Udmurtia) on Wednesday. The seminar is being attended by military experts, chemists, ecologists, medical experts from Moscow, Tatarstan, Perm, Nizhniy Novgorod, Volgograd and Saratov.

Udmurtia accounts for the largest stock of hazardous chemical substances concentrated in the area of the port of Kambarka in the settlement of Kyzner. The question was raised whether poison should be processed or destroyed. Technologies are being developed on a competitive basis and contacts have been established with foreign companies for cooperation in the processing of one of the dangerous poisons. However, the project is impeded by financial shortages and opposition of local residents to launching processing operations in the town.

Deputy chairman of the Committee for Conventional Problems of Destruction of Chemical Weapons under the Russian president, Aleksandr Ivanov, said that safe facilities for processing of poisonous substances are expected to be created in Udmurtia by 1996, when an international convention on the elimination of this kind of weapons comes into effect.

Tatarstan MVD Chief on Current Tasks

954F0305A Kazan RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN in Russian 10 Nov 94 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan Iskander Galimov by Sh. Mulayanov; place and date not given: "Iskander Galimov: 'Believe Me, We Earn Our Keep...'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **I remember with what sweep and ceremony we celebrated Militia Day at the end of the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's: Full pages in all the central newspapers and many hours of radio and television programs were dedicated to this event, which concluded with a festive gala concert with the participation of the country's most popular artists. With the beginning of the radical reorganization in society, which we named democratic, the splendor of the holiday noticeably diminished: There is no room for fanfare here, when a wave of crime has literally deluged society.**

But now the professional holiday of the militia here in the republic has, it seems, more reasons to be celebrated as a holiday than it had two or three years ago—the situation has become somewhat steadier and calmer. Or is this a subjective feeling? It is with this question that our interview with Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan I. Galimov began.

"The feeling is not deceptive," asserted Iskander Galimzyanovich, "the criminogenic situation today is rather stable, and we are controlling it. Indeed, really, just a year and a half to two years ago the militia was somewhat numbed from the avalanche of crime, and tried to repulse it in its trenches. But it can be firmly said today that we are beating off the enemy from our trenches and that we are already conducting a battle on the enemy's territory. As corroboration, I will cite several figures that compare the situation of 10 months of this year and the corresponding period of last year. Thus, now there is absolutely less of all kinds of crime. The main thing is that the number of serious crimes has dropped: violent robberies—by 150 incidents, theft—by 1,030, apartment burglaries—by 3,000, and car hijacking—by 105. Believe me, this reduction did not occur by itself, and behind each figure, even if it is not very impressive to hear, are our nervous and physical efforts and a straining of the mind and will. We are earning our keep. Statistics indicate that even street crime has dropped today by almost one-third—you will agree that it has become calmer on the streets.

This positive trend was achieved owing to the action in the republic of the Law on Extraordinary Measures in the Fight Against Crime and the implementation of a number of important steps on the part of the leadership of Tatarstan to render us assistance, and to measures I have undertaken on organizational and personnel questions.

[Mulayanov] Two to three years ago a lot was said and written about the great personnel instability and undermanning in the militia organs...

[Galimov] Well, you will recall the social atmosphere of recent years: The democratic press ran down the militia in every way, creating a negative attitude toward it among the people, the pay was niggardly, and the militiaman was not protected either in a social or a legal respect... As a result of the substantial adopted measures, the situation was improved noticeably, and today the personnel problem is not a headache for us. We put the question differently now—the achievement of genuine professionalism in all elements of the service.

[Mulayanov] As far as I know, the main criterion of militia work is the rate at which committed crimes are solved. In this respect, what is it in your organization?

[Galimov] The crime-solving rate today is 73 percent, 13 percent higher than last year. This is one of the best indicators among the 80 republics and oblasts of the Russian Federation. But this indicator is not self-sufficing for us—what is important and necessary for us is not a percentage mania in itself, but a concrete improvement in the work of all precincts and a real guarantee of public order and legality and the personal safety of citizens.

[Mulayanov] You mentioned the professionalism of personnel. Of course, any work is done properly only by professionals, but, after all, this quality does not come by itself, it has to be taught...

[Galimov] Indeed, we have noticeably increased our attention to the matter of teaching and forming professional skills. We have opened our second militia school in Naberezhnyye Chelny, and the first 500 student recruits have enrolled in training. On the basis of the correspondence affiliate of the Moscow Juridical Institute, we opened the Kazan Juridical Institute of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] of the Russian Federation with daytime, evening, and correspondence forms of training. Two groups of students—60 persons—on a contract basis at the expense of the republic's budget—are studying at the juridical faculty of the Kazan State University, and on graduation they will come to us as investigators.

Professionalism, as you realize, is a capacious concept, consisting of many components. Its basis is in the accuracy and smoothness of the mutual relations of all subunits of the militia. I started at one time as a precinct inspector, and I know myself how important it is to function skillfully and efficiently when investigating a committed crime. If you let a half hour to an hour pass by, and a witness, after calming down from the fright of what happened, now begins to change his mind about giving witness testimony, fearing what will happen to him... The selection of the staff of an operational-investigative group, taking into account the psychological compatibility of people, their professional knowledge and experience, strong and weak sides of character—all this has meaning and determines the degree of professional excellence...

[Mulayanov] At what "sore spots" are the efforts and actions of the militia directed today?

[Galimov] The preparation and solving of contract murders occupies and alarms us most of all. It is no secret that a number of such crimes have already been committed here in the republic. In the main, their victims were persons on the criminal plane associated with commercial and bank structures. It is very difficult to solve these murders—they are prepared and executed very carefully and are logically thought-out, as a rule, by killers who come in from outside. We have established a special subunit of 300 employees for the fight against organized crime.

The second problem is the presence of a great number of firearms in the hands of persons who are inclined to commit crimes. We are conducting a lot of work on revealing channels for weapons delivery and their confiscation. This year alone, 1,070 barrels were confiscated, a group of eight persons engaged in the transmittal of weapons from Izhevsk was arrested, and the businessmen who delivered them to Tatarstan from Poland, Germany were also arrested...

The third group of crimes—theft, shady transactions in the banking system, lawbreaking by officials for the purpose of enrichment and personal gain in the sphere of the economy. Probably, you yourself understand that here the militia, with all its endeavors and desires, is incapable of preventing crimes until the country's economy has been radically improved...

[Mulayanov] Do you cooperate with your colleagues from neighboring republics and oblasts?

[Galimov] Of course. First, on a quarterly basis, the leaders of the republic MVD and the oblast UVD's [Administrations of Internal Affairs] meet at regional conferences; second, we meet with neighbors in a working procedure and discuss plans for joint operations. Thus, the already mentioned case of the arrest of a group of criminals and the confiscation from them of 38 barrels in Izhevsk is the result specifically of such cooperation. Recently we combined forces with our neighbors in a fight against car hijackers who, as is well known, do not recognize territorial borders.

[Mulayanov] The complexity of crimes is growing continuously, and they are becoming more cunning and resourceful, perhaps. In this connection it seems to me that the specialization of your employees according to type of crimes should assume more and more significance. Or am I wrong?

[Galimov] We are moving steadily along the path of specialization, establishing special services at the administrations and rayon departments of the militia—subunits in the fight against apartment theft, subunits in the fight against car hijacking... They are gradually accumulating experience, improving their work in their field, and the efficiency of their work is continuously growing.

[Mulayanov] Iskander Galimzyanovich, answer me honestly and self-critically: Are you succeeding in moving toward the objective that you certainly set for yourself on assuming the position of minister?

[Galimov] It seems to me that I am succeeding. Probably not as fast as I would like, but I feel that undeviating movement forward is occurring. And I try to maintain a continuous feeling in myself and in our subordinates of dissatisfaction and concern. It is not possible any other way—our service is unique by its very nature.

[Mulayanov] I hope you maintain this feeling of healthy ambition as long as possible. Once again, greetings on the holiday! Incidentally, how do you plan to spend it?

[Galimov] Thank you for the greeting! The day before, 9 November, we will ceremonially place a memorial plaque on the building where General Yapeyev, who headed the militia of the republic for many years, lived. On 10 November we will lay flowers on the graves of militiamen who fell heroically in the fight against riffraff, and we will assemble in the club, where in the spirit of the memorable television programs "From Our Heart and Soul," we will render what is due the most outstanding comrades...

Tatarstan Official on Illegal Immigration

954F0306A Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 10 Nov 94 p 2

[An interview with Mars Sabirov, chief of the MVD passport and visa service, by Natalya Spiridonova; place and date not given: "Give Your Name—You Will Be a Guest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **There has been a sharp increase of late in the influx of citizens from the far abroad and especially from the near abroad who arrive in our republic illegally. In this connection, the concerns and problems of the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tatarstan have increased noticeably.**

An IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA correspondent asked Mars Sabirov, the chief of the passport and visa service of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], to talk about them.

[Spiridonova] Mars Nurgayazovich, in a number of neighboring oblasts and republics; for example, such as Mari El and Bashkortostan, new rules have been adopted and are already in effect on the stay of foreigners in them. Will a similar law be passed in Tatarstan?

[Sabirov] The draft of a similar document has already been developed in our republic. Its speedy adoption will help improve the state of public order, and it will make it possible to fight crime more effectively. It is necessary for the tranquility and security of the residents of Tatarstan.

The new rules of residence that are already in force in many Russian oblasts, in Siberia, and in the Far East compel foreigners, especially CIS citizens, who are staying in Russia illegally, to seek regions where more lenient laws are in effect. Tatarstan still remains among these. And so, all of the "guests" come to us.

Today, the criminogenic situation is created most of all by residents of the Asiatic and Transcaucasian republics, and by citizens of China and Vietnam who migrate through the country in search of a sales market. These people most often engage in illegal commerce and entrepreneurial activity. As a result, considerable raw materials resources and currency are taken out of the country without controls, thereby inflicting considerable damage to Tatarstan's economy.

A special subdivision has been set up in the passport-visa service of the MVD of the Republic of Tatarstan that works on monitoring the stay of foreign citizens in the republic. Its employees conduct daily checks on hostels, hotels, commercial firms, kolkhozes, and personal property markets. More than 2,000 violators of the rules on the stay of foreign citizens have already been identified and penalized in an administrative procedure.

A significant part of the violations committed by foreigners in Tatarstan has a clearly criminal character. This is murders, rape, assaults, robberies, thefts, and the illegal preparation, acquisition, and storage of narcotics, firearms and cold steel, ammunition, and explosives. In nine months of this year, "guests," mainly from the near abroad, committed 77 crimes on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan. Some of the visitors are under investigation. It would be easier to make oneself secure against many of these law-breakers, if we had stricter rules today on the registration of foreign citizens.

[Sabirov] What will law-abiding citizens have to do who arrive in the republic when the law goes into force?

[Galimov] That which all foreigners have to do after arriving in any civilized country. They are obliged to declare their presence in it, to go through appropriate registration in the course of three days in the place of actual residence: in hotels, rest homes, sanatoriums, boarding houses, and hostels.

Foreigners who set themselves up in apartments of private persons, including those that are privatized, go through registration on the representation of the apartment tenant at the place of residence in the passport-visa subdivision of the Internal Affairs organs.

A state duty is imposed on foreign citizens for the formulation and also the extension of residence in the amount of 10 percent of the size of the minimum monthly wage established in the Republic of Tatarstan.

The administrations of hotels and sanatoriums, the commandants of hostels, the chairmen of ZhSK [housing construction cooperative], and owners of apartments and private homes are responsible for compliance with the rules of registration of foreign citizens. They will pay a fine for violations of up to five minimum wages established in the Republic of Tatarstan. With repeated violations—already 10.

A fine of from one to five minimum wages also awaits an unregistered foreigner. If in the course of the next three months this is repeated, the sum of fine sanctions increases already to 15 minimum wages.

The resources received for the formulation of registrations of citizens, and also the fines, will be transferred to the local budgets of the cities and rayons for organizational-technical measures for the creation of an address base of data on the residents of the Republic of Tatarstan.

I will especially note that the new rules of the stay of foreigners in Tatarstan does not in any way infringe on their rights, and they do not restrict the legal entry into the republic. It is open to foreign citizens.

According to the latest data of OVIR [department for visas and registration of foreign citizens], 1,675 foreigners live on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan who work in enterprises and are studying in the republic's VUZ's [higher educational institutions]. Many of the guest arrive here on private invitations, for official matters for the conduct of treaties and contracts, and the construction of new industrial facilities. The new law, whose draft has been sent to the government for review, will promote the strengthening of a normal economic and political process in the Republic of Tatarstan.

International Affairs

Kuchma Addresses UN General Assembly

LD2211201994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1410 GMT 22 Nov 94

[Speech by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to the UN General Assembly in New York on 21 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, I would like to use this opportunity to extend my sincere greetings to you in your post of General Assembly Chairman and add to the high appraisal of your balanced, and at the same time dynamic, leadership at the 49th General Assembly session, which has already produced a number of constructive decisions on a wide range of fundamental problems of world development facing the United Nations.

Esteemed delegates! Speaking from this high rostrum today, I would like to put a special emphasis on the vital importance of the multi-dimensional issue of development, which in fact embodies the moving force of world civilization. Actually, attempts to formulate a viable agenda for development is today a top priority not only for Ukraine, but perhaps for all of the United Nations member-states. The fundamental ideas which assembled the founding members, Ukraine among them, at this unique forum 50 years ago, must be constantly enriched with new common tasks in step with the radical changes in the historical situation we have witnessed lately.

Among these tasks, as we understand them in Ukraine, is the provision of a lasting peace and political stability through socioeconomic reforms and development in the interests of human beings. The history of mankind proves that peace and development, democratization, and the humanization of the world community are integral parts of the global process. Peace and stability are impossible without development, just as they are impossible with the existence of societies whose nature envisions violence and contempt for fundamental human rights. It follows from here that declarative democracy which is not backed by development is doomed. The inability to secure the development of society in all its dimensions inevitably causes disillusionment with the ideas of democracy and destroys social stability. In its turn, development in the absence of democracy has a temporary and limited value, as history has proven, in reality leading to the decline of social and economic guarantees, first of all for the developing nations. This is ultimately fraught with a loss of incentive to move forward, creating a climate for stagnation.

In this respect, the ideas voiced in the speech by the secretary general add force to the touchstones of the restructuring of the main areas of the United Nations activity set forth in earlier conceptual documents—the Agenda for Peace, and the Agenda for Disarmament. The nature of today's world realities allows us to state confidently that the upkeep of world peace and security, and the provision of steady development for all members of the world community are two equally significant aspects of the UN's distinguished mission.

In this connection, the debate on what the priority in our organization's activity is seems to be somewhat scholastic. Developing this thesis in practical plane, I would like to say that expenditure to render aid for development purposes and for activity in the field of maintaining and safeguarding peace do not contradict each other in any way. The provision of resources for development purposes today is a preventive measure which will allow us to essentially reduce expenditure for possible urgent surgical intervention and emergency peacekeeping actions in future.

Similarly, peacekeeping activities will undoubtedly contribute to preventing the escalation of existing conflicts, which will allow us to release additional resources for the purposes of development. The old truism says that prevention is better than cure. This is exactly why ever more efforts should be made to step up the effectiveness of UN preventive diplomacy. Giving the efforts by the UN Secretary General Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the activities by the Security Council in this direction their due, I would like to call on them to more intensively use such methods of preventive diplomacy as fact-finding missions, good services missions, good- will missions, and sending special envoys of the UN secretary general to areas of tension and potential conflict. In connection with this, in our opinion, a proposal to set up a permanently functioning institution of international mediators deserves support. The most authoritative politicians and statesmen representing the states on all continents would become its members. This institution could also be entrusted with the functions of supervising democratic elections, which is especially important at times of post-confrontational work on restoring peace.

Ukraine has not just declared its loyalty to the principles of the United Nations' status but has proven by practical actions its capability of carrying the burden of responsibility as a member of the world community. This refers to the issue of UN peacekeeping activity, too. Ukraine's military umpires were taking part in relevant undertakings in the Dniester area. Virtually since the very beginning of the Yugoslav conflict, since July 1992, Ukraine's contingent has been taking part in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are ready to further step up and expand our participation in UN peacekeeping undertakings and we share the approach to this issue on the part of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. At the same time, Ukraine is ready to join the search for new forms of activity to warn against and prevent conflicts.

Mr. Chairman, one of the important links between peace and development is the process of control over armaments and disarmament. The reduction of armaments and armed forces, and the liquidation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, unequivocally contributes to lowering the level of military threat and therefore creates favorable external conditions for the existence and development of all the members of the world community. Ukraine attaches exceptional significance to its participation in this process. It was the first in the world to refrain from possessing nuclear weapons on a completely voluntary basis, and it conscientiously fulfills the international obligations it assumed, and removes the powerful arsenal of this most dangerous kind of weapon of mass destruction its territory. However, during the entire period of time since Ukraine acquired independence the world community has been focusing attention mainly on one theme: whether Ukraine will become a non-nuclear state or embark on the road of taking possession of the nuclear weapons inherited from the Soviet Union as a reliable means of deterrence.

Ukraine recently demonstrated to the whole world its commitment to its own obligations and its consistent and well-considered stance in blazing the trail toward non-nuclear status. The full stop was put to this question recently: Ukraine's Supreme Council on 16 November 1994 approved a decision to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ukraine thereby once again confirmed it was a responsible member of the international community on the basis of the fact that this was an unprecedented step by our state in that for the first time in the history of humankind a state voluntarily gave up nuclear weapons, a step to be duly appreciated by the international community.

I recall that Ukraine from the very outset hoped that in response to its initiative to eliminate the nuclear weapons deployed on its territory, it would be given support and assistance that would be adequate to its actual expenditure incurred as the result of eliminating these weapons, and guarantees of its security from nuclear states and due compensation for the price of the nuclear materials in these weapons.

Today there are all grounds to state that Ukraine, despite all its economic and political difficulties, is acting consistently and, most importantly, in the interests of the entire humanity. I regret—and I must say this from the elevated rostrum of the United Nations Organization—that such a policy has not yet been responded to adequately. Ukraine has not yet received the sum due as compensation for the tactical nuclear warheads withdrawn. The provision of the aid pledged under the Nunn-Lugar bill is very slow and, as a whole, does not meet the set schedule of its receipt.

Problems also remain with extending political guarantees of security. These, incidentally, are not the only instances where the performance by our partners of the accords reached is unsatisfactory.

All this puts Ukraine, as a young, independent state, in a politically strong position. We, however, would like to see the many states that linked the provision of real aid to our accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty take the same position and be ready today, rather than tomorrow, to travel their part of the way and make a transition from the making of pledges to the real backing of large-scale free-market reforms, the implementation of which I intend energetically to promote with the use of all means available to Ukraine's executive power.

Calling for Ukraine's accession to the treaty at the Supreme Council on 16 November, relying on our partners keeping their word was not the least of my considerations, either.

Esteemed delegates, the time has come for everybody finally to realize that stable development is not only necessary to maintain the existing security structures at global, regional, and national level, but also is an objective precondition for the whole of our civilization to exist and evolve.

Ukraine is also faced with the problems of development in every aspect particularly acutely. The result of a combination of negative factors of both an objective and subjective nature was that Ukraine now is at the crucial stage of its development. The establishment of the independent state in practice and its transition to a law-governed democratic society are hampered by the severe economic crisis, the aggravation of which leads to a decline in the population's living standards.

We see the only possible way out of this situation in a radical restructuring of the entire economic mechanism and in the consistent introduction of market reforms in all spheres of production. The realization of the critical nature of the state's present socioeconomic situation became the deciding factor in accelerating the development of a macroeconomic stabilization program and of pulling Ukraine out of the crisis worked out together with experts from the IMF.

The reform program envisions first and foremost the liberalization of trade, a pricing policy, the privatization of state enterprises through a respective broad based program, the creation of a legislative basis of market reforms and guaranteeing financial stability through cutting the budget deficit and carrying out a clear and balanced credit and monetary policy.

In recent years, Ukraine was criticized for the slow pace of reforms. This was the reason given for not granting tangible external aid. To a certain extent, this criticism was fair. Today radical economic reform is one of the most important priorities in both the Ukrainian president's and government's activity. There is no alternative to this policy. Ukraine is faced with a difficult task not only of emerging from the economic crisis but in its attitude as a civilized democratic European state competent, on an appropriate level, to safeguard the well-being of the population and to carry out the role of one of the guarantors of stability in the region.

We cannot but realize that the resolution of this major problem is practically impossible without moral, political, financial and economic assistance on the part of the international community. This corresponds to the vital interests of Ukraine itself as well as to the other member countries of the United Nations.

The establishment and strengthening of Ukraine as a politically sovereign and economically strong state is one of the essential factors in preserving peace and stability both on the European continent and in the world as a whole, and an important precondition of its progressive and conflict-free development. These realities are gradually being realized in the world. The forums in Naples, Madrid, Washington, and Winnipeg namely prove this. I cannot but stress that for the first time in history the world's developed countries, together with the leading international financial establishments, gathered together in Winnipeg, Canada, to discuss the problems of the development of a separate country and the possibilities of granting assistance not in a general context but at a special forum. This is a sign of historical changes in the world situation and a search for new effective answers to the challenges of time. We hope that the results of this meeting will have a significant influence on the progress of reforms not only in Ukraine but in other post-communist countries.

Our activities in the international sphere, particularly in the United Nations, are based on the fact that the emergence of a new category of states, states with a transitional economy, has become an objective reality of international relations after the end of the Cold War and the disintegration of the USSR. Our experience proves that the period of transformation of the mentioned group of countries will last for a long time and will demand considerable effort. In this context, we welcome the fact that the problem of the transitional period is being gradually secured by the multi- faceted action of the United Nations and its special establishments.

Ukraine firmly intends to go along the path of further deepening cooperation in this area. For this reason we support the elaboration during the current session of the General Assembly of more active and more specific recommendations with regard to the integration of countries of the transitional period to the world economic system. An integrated world economy, based on the principles of market- economy based democracy, should become the global result of the implementation of transformational processes. One can hardly imagine the normal existence of democratic systems without them abiding by the civilized rules of carrying on foreign trade. It is not by chance that the entire world had been following the debate at the Uruguay Round of GATT. Big states met small and less developed countries halfway for the first time ever within the context of regional and collective efforts. The negotiations ended up in the signing of the agreement; however, its genuine implementation is still to take some time.

Ukraine highly evaluates the creation of the World Trade Organization [WTO] and has firm intentions to move along the road of acceding to the GATT-WTO system. We hope that its activity will contribute to establishing an open, transparent, trade system and will create additional opportunities for making the world market more accessible to the transitional states, Ukraine included.

Ukraine is ready to take an active part in the implementation of the economic and technical programs, carried out within the framework of the specialized institutions within the United Nations system at the regional and sub-regional levels. We expect that the UN economic programs will be more oriented toward the states with transitional economies, because this group of states has a significant economic infrastructure and scientific and technical potential. The implementation of the UN programs and projects in these states may yield the speediest positive results. Meanwhile, integration of the transitional states into the world economy will contribute to increasing the number of sources of financing for the programs, including in the developing countries.

I would like to express a number of considerations about the primary tasks facing the United Nations, the solution of which the stable development of its member-state depends on to a great extent. In our opinion, the implementation of Article 65 of the UN Charter, according to which the Economic and Social Council would submit to the UN Security Council regular reports on the socioeconomic situation in the regions where a potential threat to international peace and security exists, would be the first specific contribution toward that end. We believe that this would significantly step up the preventive functions of the United Nations. The changes the United Nations is now going through are directly connected with the budgetary and financial sphere of its activities. Without cardinal reforms in this sphere it will hardly be possible to overcome the difficult financial situation of the organization. The principle of solvency, which is being declared on a broad scale, should be fully reflected in practical terms both when calculating the contributions of the countries to the regular budget and when determining expenditure to finance the peacekeeping activities of the United Nations. The adoption of a political decision on these issues has become imperative.

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that present-day conflicts, which occur in various regions of the world, have negative political and socioeconomic consequences, not only for the countries directly involved in the conflict but for the neighboring states as well.

We, in particular, are suffering immeasurable financial losses as a result of thorough compliance with the terms of the UN economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Traditional markets for the sale of our goods have been lost, economic links with Yugoslav partners have been severed, and the carriage of cargo by the Danube, one of Europe's main transport arteries, has virtually ground to a halt. Losses to the tune of billions are being inflicted on Ukraine's economy as the result of applying sanctions. This is a huge extra burden on Ukraine's economy, which is in crisis. That is why we once again call on the international community to spare no effort so as to render effective assistance to the states that are incurring losses as a result of their abiding by the sanctions. We shall demand that General Assembly recommendations on this issue, addressed to international monetary and financial institutions, should not remain on paper only.

Finally, there is the problem of Chernobyl, long since familiar to everybody. The word Chernobyl has lately once again been widely resounding internationally. This was to a certain degree influenced by the Ukrainian parliament's recent decision to continue the operation of Chernobyl atomic energy station, taking account of not only the economic hardship that our state had found itself in but also a number of other important circumstances. What it primarily is, is that Ukraine's thermal power engineering cannot compensate for the decommissioning of the Chernobyl power plant. These issues can be resolved in a constructive manner only through the modernization of Ukraine's entire power engineering complex, the materialization of which is so far beyond our powers without large-scale international support. We believe that issues pertaining to Chernobyl's nuclear power generating sets and their shutdown should be viewed not as local measures but as the implementation of an integral international program to eliminate the Chernobyl aftermath because, as ecologists and philosophers believe, Chernobyl is a global problem. We rely in this on support from the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman and esteemed delegates, the United Nations Organization will next year mark its 50th jubilee. I would like to recall an overriding consideration in celebrating the anniversary: We are the peoples of united nations that united for a better world. For every one of us, a better world is every nation's stable development, which can only be achieved by all states' joint efforts and by the establishment of the principles of partnership possessing equal rights, and mutual respect.

We propose in connection with this to look at the possibility of all states approving in the context of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations a document called a Partnership for Development, which, in particular, should call on all states, small and large, to relinquish suspicions, mistrust, and mutual claims, in the name of stable economic development; demonstrate solidarity in the cause of strengthening international security, justice, and equal rights; and declare the importance of establishing really partnership-like relations, possessing equal rights, in every sphere of international life. Ukraine is ready to sign this important document.

Thank you for your attention.

Shcherbak on Ukraine's 'Image'

MM2211151994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "America Must Get Used to the Idea of Ukrainian Independence. Yuriy Shcherbak Gets the Washington Job"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—New presidents change the people in key posts, and it is not surprising that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has sent a new man to Washington. Many people are surprised that he opted for Yuriy Nikolayevich Shcherbak, a well-known defender of human rights, physician, and writer, who has fought might and main for a clean environment. Yuriy Shcherbak was one of the first to talk about the full magnitude of the Chernobyl accident. And he said it at a time when it took courage to say so. But does that qualify him to be head of the diplomatic mission in the capital of the last superpower?

"One of our papers wrote that I was only temporary here," Yuriy Shcherbak said, without actually acknowledging it or denying it. "What of it? Aren't we all temporary in this life?"

But then he pointed out that he had been the first Ukrainian ambassador to Israel, he had gotten the embassy going from scratch, and its stock was high. "Possibly as well it was a combination of factors," the new ambassador said.

Yuriy Shcherbak chose not to clarify this, although probably what he meant was that such professionals as former foreign minister Anatoliy Zlenko (now Ukraine's permanent representative at the United Nations) and B. Tarasyuk, who stays in Kiev as a first deputy minister, were claimants to the post of chief Ukrainian diplomat.

"I am not part of the new president's team, if we are talking about the small group of his closest aides," Yuriy Shcherbak admitted. "I ceased to be a minister and went to Israel as ambassador on the actual day before Leonid Kuchma became head of the government. But right from his very first public pronouncements, tough and clear, I have had the feeling that the man speaks the truth."

The new ambassador sees it as his main task to accustom America to the fact that Ukrainian independence actually exists. "The Administration appreciates that Ukraine is strategically unique," Yuriy Shcherbak said, citing the assurances of State Department "strong man" Strobe Talbott, whom he met the day after his arrival.

Concerning relations with the Ukrainian diaspora, which is pretty influential in the United States, Yuriy Shcherbak admitted that there was some disappoinbtment in Ukraine that the aid had turned out to be less than promised and, most important, less than expected. "I know how lavish the wealthy diaspora's aid can be," he said, going on his own recent experience. "Every university, every major public building—nearly everything in Israel was constructed on the basis of donations by Jews the world over."

According to the new Ukrainian ambassador, he has received one basic instruction from President Kuchma and Foreign Minister Udovenko which, fortunately, corresponds entirely to his personal views and feelings. None of the ambassador's actions geared to enhancing

Ukraine's prestige and establishing in the minds of the U.S. public the image of an independent, entirely autonomous Ukraine must in any way be anti-Russian. Remarks about and allusions to a "Russian threat" are unacceptable. "To build independence on hostility would be to acknowledge an inferiority complex," Yuriy Shcherbak said, recalling the names of many close friends in Moscow.

"But there have been some disappointments," Yuriy Shcherbak admits. "Back in the days of perestroyka, when we were concluding the civil treaty with prominent Russian democrats, one of them put his signature to the document which proclaimed Ukrainian independence. Not long afterward this person radically changed his stance. Now he allows Ukraine to be merely a Russian protectorate—a step backward even from the Soviet idea of Ukrainian autonomy."

Fedorov Discusses NPT 'Misunderstanding'

LD2211143094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Suprun and Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—The provisions of the law, passed by the Ukrainian parliament, on Ukraine's accession to the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear (NPT) unambiguously indicate that Ukraine has joined this treaty as a non-nuclear state. Neither the president, the government nor the parliament of Ukraine question its status as a non-nuclear party to the NPT, Vladimir Fedorov, charge d'affaires ad interim of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, told a press conference on Tuesday in view of the Russian side's "certain misunderstanding" about Ukraine's stand on the matter.

Fedorov voiced confidence that Russia's doubts about reservations with which the law was passed would be removed and that there would remain no problems in this respect.

Speaking about the provision of international security guarantees to Ukraine, the Ukrainian diplomat pointed out that the negotiators, as a result of a large number of official and unofficial consultations both in Kiev and in the capitals of nuclear powers, succeeded in coming up with the text of an appropriate memorandum agreed upon by Russia, the United States, Britain, and Ukraine.

The memo is to be signed at a CSCE summit in Budapest.

As far as French guarantees to Ukraine are concerned, a compromise solution has been found that such guarantees will be provided in the form of a one-sided declaration.

Fedorov emphasised at the same time that obligations assumed under the three-sided agreement between Russia, the U.S. and Ukraine, which envisages in particular compensations for nuclear weapons removed from Ukrainian territory, are not being fulfilled by the sides.

On Russia as Main Strategic Partner

LD2211150194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correpondents Vladimir Suprun and Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 22 TASS—"Russia is Ukraine's main strategic partner not simply from the point of view of historical likings, but due to the objective reality," Ukrainian charge d'affaires ad interim in Russia Vladimir Fedorov today told a press conference here. "All the actions of the two countries are being agreed through official channels," he stressed.

According to the Ukrainian diplomat, hard work is now being done to prepare the ground for President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine. The text of the treaty "on friendship, cooperation, and partnership" between the two countries is practically agreed. A whole package of documents, including approximately 45 agreements, is being prepared. They will lay the legal foundation for bilateral cooperation, primarily in the economic domain. Fedorov expressed the hope that it would be possible to resolve during Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Ukraine the problems that have accumulated in relations between Moscow and Kiev.

The diplomat believes that the most difficult problem is the Black Sea navy issue, which can be resolved only on the basis of "mutual interest and solidarity". He believes that the elevation of the official delegations to the talks on the Black Sea navy to the level of first vice-premiers would be an important contribution to this process.

Canada Agrees to Energy Assistance, Exploration

WS2211134794 Kiev RADA in Ukrainian 21 Nov 94 p 2

[Article by UNIAN correspondent Hanna Lyuta: "Poltava Region's 'Black Gold' of Canadian Bottling"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, following Ukrainian President Kuchma's visit to Canada, where a number of agreements were signed on joint activities in several spheres, the Canadian side agreed to extend $100 million to Ukraine in aid to repay its debts for energy sources. Canada will also earmark an additional $200 million for safety programs at nuclear stations.

However, Canada's intention of participating in the development of our power engineering is not limited to the above proposals. For example, several Canadian companies were among the first to declare readiness to join exploration of Ukrainian oil and gas fields.

The "Ukrnafta" corporatized [korporatyzovane] amalgamation and Canada's UK-RAN Oil Corporation are completing work on statute documents creating a Canadian-Ukrainian joint venture intended to prospect the Lelyakivske deposit in Chernihiv Oblast. Both sides are currently discussing specific terms of cooperation, the size of the authorized fund, and the division of profits. Canada's contribution to the fund will be made in hard currency and partly in the form of equipment. The "Ukrnafta" is planning to contribute karbovanetses and equipment, including the right to complete the prospecting of the deposit and the use of a portion of the extracted oil. Ukrainian oil workers will represent as much as 90 percent of the joint venture's staff. If a substantial amount of oil is discovered as a result of the prospecting, direct exploitation of the deposit by the Canadian side will be based on leasing. The leasing term was tentatively set for 40 years.

If set up, the Ukrainian-Canadian venture will be the second such venture in the Ukrainian oil industry. The first venture was launched by JP Penny from Great Britain and the Poltava Oil Company.

At first glance, the Lelyakivske deposit does not promise to bring huge profits. It has been exploited since the 1960's and its resources are 98 percent exhausted. The oil extraction figures reached 60 percent, and its water content [obvodnenist] is too heavy.

In other words, in the oil-rich times under the Soviet Union, no one would pay any attention to this deposit. Today is different. According to preliminary estimates by experts, it is possible to extract daily up to 100 tonnes of oil from the Lelyakivske deposit for decades by applying special geophysical reconnaissance methods and available extraction technologies. As the civilized countries prefer the "sparing" extraction of oil allowing for continuous stable exploitation, the Lelyakivske deposit is as if cut out to being explored by this method.

By the way, there are quite a few deposits whose exploration calls for substantial costs at the initial stage. Unfortunately, Ukrainian oil and gas companies are starved for funds and, hence, for modern technology. On the other hand, foreign companies (more than one hundred of them approached the "Ukrnafta" over the last three years) usually want fast profits. This is quite understandable because in Ukraine, plagued by an economic crisis, no contract is insured by international agencies. In this respect, our bureaucratic system of granting permits for prospecting and exploration (which exists in all countries, but is not so dependent on individual officials) is a blessing: only a serious company with serious intentions would venture to overcome all obstacles.

The "Ukrnafta" claims that these are the type of companies that went through the selection process and are interested in Ukrainian oil and gas deposits. There are other Canadian companies intending to operate in Ukraine: Arcoma Company Inc., Energy Associates Ltd., Navacorp International Consulting Inc., and Ocelot International.

There is hope that cooperation with foreign companies in prospecting Ukrainian deposits will initiate their continuous exploitation instead of a quick and complete exhaustion.

Crimean Group Favors Russian 'Reunion'

LD2211162094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2210 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 21 Nov—"Crimea's reunion with Russia would remove all the problems existing between Ukraine and Russia, and the State Duma is beginning to understand this," Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, said at a sitting of Crimea's parliament, which considered the results of the visits by a delegation of the Crimean parliament to Kiev and Moscow. According to Viktor Mezhak, at the Russian State Duma they promised to give the people of Crimea financial and material support and Russian citizenship and even voiced their readiness to guarantee a referendum on the status of Crimea. As far as the Black Sea Fleet is concerned, in Mr. Mezhak's opinion, it must remain indivisible.

Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, believes that "one should have a calm approach toward the adoption by the Supreme Council of Ukraine of a resolution that rescinded more than 40 enactments of the Crimean parliament."

National Affairs

Official Discusses Nuclear Safety Legislation

AU2211173494 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 19 Nov 94 p 3

[Interview with Mykhaylo Antonovych Pavlovskyy, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Standing Commission for Issues of Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety, by URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent Oleh Oliynyk; place and date not given: "Ukraine's Nuclear Safety"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Ukraine's Supreme Council has ratified the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. This event will become an important landmark in the history of our state, but it is clear that Ukraine's nuclear policy is not limited to the military aspect alone.**

A URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent met with M. Pavlovskyy, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Standing Commission for Issues of Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety.

[Oliynyk] Mykhaylo Antonovych, Ukraine is coming closer to the status of a country that does not possess nuclear weapons, but this does not imply that it will not develop nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes.

[Pavlovskyy] Of course, we have every reason to develop precisely this trend, as we need to have our own more or less complete technological cycle in order to produce nuclear fuel for atomic electric power plants [AES], with the exception of, perhaps, uranium enrichment (the latter may be done in other countries). The uranium that we extract may only compensate for 10 percent of the cost of the fuel. The parts of the technological cycle that we have had, so far, must be united in a single system—from uranium extraction to the burial of nuclear waste. We should not, after all, limit ourselves to the framework of nuclear power engineering alone, because the entire nuclear industry, including the production of pure isotopes, is promising.

[Oliynyk] The European community increasingly insists that we stop operating the Chernobyl AES.

[Pavlovskyy] The conditions that are put forward to Ukraine—the immediate shutdown of the Chernobyl AES with a compensation for the electricity being produced—are unacceptable. This is a complex problem, which also involves a social aspect. The point is that the Chernobyl AES and its entire infrastructure comprise approximately 100,000 working places. Nobody has the right to deprive these people of work. We understand the concerns of our Western partners regarding the level of nuclear safety in Europe, but we also understand that a struggle for markets is under way and Ukraine is offered to import electricity, produced in western Europe. We will eventually close down the Chernobyl AES, but will do that in a normal and natural manner, after it exhausts its resources. I believe that it is more reasonable now to speak of making the plant safer than of shutting it down. This is the primary concern.

[Oliynyk] What is the present situation with storing nuclear waste at Ukraine's AES's?

[Pavlovskyy] It has been concluded worldwide that not a single country is legally allowed to dump its radioactive waste in other countries. Russia also acts accordingly. That is why we only partially process our waste there and bring highly active substances back home. The first stage in resolving the problem of waste burial is the so-called temporary (between 40 and 50 years) storage, as a rule, in the area of the AES. Then we must start thinking about permanent burial of the waste. Ukraine has individual technologies for this, and we must unite them in a single system. This must also be promoted by "nuclear" legislation. The former Supreme Council laid its foundation, and our commission has already completed work on the bill on the utilization of nuclear energy. It will be a basic law. The experience of nuclear powers has been taken into consideration when drafting it. I hope that by the end of the year it will pass through first reading.

Nuclear Plant Brings New Reactor On Line

WS2211153294 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0252 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mykolayiv, Nov. 20.—Despite severe financial problems at the facility, the Mykolayiv nuclear plant recently brought a new one million kilowatt reactor on line.

Plant officials say the new reactor will help in providing much needed electricity to Ukraine, but that the plant can do nothing about forcing energy consumers to pay their debts. Currently, the plant is owed more than 300 billion karbovanets for supplied electricity but is wary about cutting off power to debtors.

"Regularly switching off electricity to save energy would affect enterprises very badly and may even cause accidents and result in chaos at the oblast heating system," said one plant official. The facility has not yet decided what to do about recent orders from President Leonid Kuchma on strictly enforcing payment deadlines.

National Bank Bans Foreign Currency Trade

AU2211135994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Issuing of Licenses Has Been Suspended"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As reported by the Press Service of Ukraine's National Bank, the latter has suspended, as of 18 November 1994, the issuing of licenses for carrying out trade operations and providing services with payments in foreign currency. This has been done in order to stabilize the exchange rates of the karbovanets and to stop the circulation of foreign currency in Ukraine. The validity of the previously issued licenses for conducting trade and providing services with payments in foreign currency will expire on 18 February 1995. The trade with payments in foreign currency by those organizations that have corresponding licenses of Ukraine's National Bank, is authorized until 18 February 1995 only provided that they have contracts concluded prior to 18 November 1994 and registered by 1 December 1994 by the Crimean Republican Bank and by regional administrations of Ukraine's National Bank. At the same time, Ukraine's National Bank recommends that the country's authorized banks expand the network of currency exchange stations.

Crimea Notes Income, Spending Increases

954F0355A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the rubric "In the Mirror of Statistics": "The Count Is in Trillions: Population's Income and Prices Over First Nine Months of 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The monetary income of the population amounted to 14 trillion karbovantsi, which is 1.3 trillion less than expenses.

The average monthly per capita income over the first nine months of 1994 amounted to 587,600 karbovantsi, and monetary expenditures to 643,700 karbovantsi, and increased as compared to the corresponding period of last year 14.3-fold and 17.7-fold, respectively.

In September, workers' average income reached 1.5 million karbovantsi.

Prices in state and cooperative trade increased 21-fold over the first nine months of 1994 as compared to the corresponding period of last year, including those for foodstuffs—19-fold, nonfood items—26-fold, and for-fee services for the population—30-fold.

Among foodstuffs, the greatest prices increases occurred with respect to: sugar (44-fold), salt (38-fold), milk and milk products (36-fold), eggs (26-fold), vegetable oil (25-fold), and potatoes (22-fold). Among nonfood items, prices rose the most with respect to construction materials (56-fold), printed publications, medicines and medical supplies, and chemical industry goods (48-fold), school and office supplies (40-fold), household chemicals (38-fold), household soap (34-fold), and synthetic detergents (31-fold).

Wholesale prices in industry in September of the current year as compared to December of last year increased 1.95-fold, including in the flour-milling and cereal industry—3.5 fold, the chemical industry—3.2-fold, electric power generation—2.6-fold, the timber and woodworking industry—2.4-fold, the light industry—2.2-fold, and the construction materials industry—2.1-fold.

Prices for agricultural output continue to rise. The average price paid by procurement organizations over the nine months of the current year amounted to per ton of: grain—3.3318 million karbovantsi, livestock and poultry in live weight—11.2379 million, and milk—1.7215 million; per 1,000 eggs—1.0148 million; and per quintal of wool—6.4028 million karbovantsy. As of 1 October of this year, the average procurement price of one tonne of potatoes was 5.7026 million karbovantsi, vegetables—7.0164 million, fruit and berries—4.3008 million, and grapes—4.9067 million karbovantsi.

Nine-Month Consumer Market Statistics

954K0387A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Nov 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fewer and Fewer Products: The Consumer Market and Services Sphere Over the First Nine Months of 1994"]

[FBIS Translated Text] No changes for the better have been seen in the production of consumer goods. Over the first nine months of the year, consumer products valued at 8.6772 trillion karbovantsi have been produced, just 65 percent of the level for the same period of 1993. Two-thirds of enterprises have reduced their output of consumer goods by 4.9893 trillion karbovantsi.

Meat production amounted to 53 percent of the output of the first nine months of 1993, sausage products—78 percent, whole milk production in terms of milk—70 percent, butter—56 percent, and vegetable oil—39 percent.

In contrast to the first nine months of last year, an almost three-fold reduction was seen in the production of confectionery items, a 44-percent reduction in canned goods, and 15-18 percent reduction in flour, cereals, and macaroni products. The situation deteriorated with respect to production of baby food. Reductions of 32-48 percent were seen in the output of cream, sterilized and vitamin-fortified milk, and cooked sausage; a four-fold decrease in Vitalakt sour-milk production and canned fruits for babies. The output of sterilized vegetable juices ceased.

The output volume of products of light industry is just 29 percent of the level produced over the first nine months of 1993.

The greatest reductions were observed in production of footwear (seven-fold) and various types of clothing (from three- to five-fold).

There were significant reductions in the output of children's products. Only 13 percent of the volume of footwear and dresses for the first nine months of 1993 was produced this year, 17-35 percent of the 1993 volume of suits, pantyhose, and shirts was produced.

The trend towards reduced output of major home appliances continues. Since the beginning of the year, production of televisions and radios decreased by a factor of two, color televisions—by a factor of 1.5. Output of electric mixers was reduced by a factor of three; of toys, tables, beds, and household chemicals (including synthetic detergents) by more than half.

The total volume of retail trade was 14 times greater than that for the first nine months of 1993. However, the physical volume of commodity circulation decreased by 35 percent. Ninety-eight percent of the total commodity circulation volume was attributable to increased prices.

We continue to see a drop in sales of food and nonfood products.

Of the nonfood products, sales volumes were significantly lower for synthetic detergents, toilet soap, medicines, hats, household chemicals, musical instruments, electric lighting appliances, sporting goods, bicycles, motorcycles, textiles for household use, leather footwear, laundry soap, clothing, linens, radios and televisions, toys, cotton underwear, office products, school supplies, thread, knitted wear, building materials, matches, metalware, natural fur, perfumes and cosmetics, haberdashery, fabric, furniture, and other products.

Reductions were seen in the sale of canned fish and canned meats, meat and poultry, sausage products, butter, vegetable oil, sugar, confectionery items, margarine and margarine products, nonalcoholic beverages, tea, and fish.

Lesser marketable stocks of potatoes, vegetables, and fruits were sold.

The volume of paid services decreased by 8.7 percent over the first nine months of the year as compared with last year (in comparable prices). Of the aggregate volume of paid services, the proportion consisting of everyday services decreased by a third, amounting to 6.3 percent.

Belarus

Hryb on U.S. Compensation for Nuclear Materials

LD2211184194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk November 22 TASS—"The American-Russian agreements on compensation for nuclear materials to be delivered to the U.S. will not be signed by the United States as long as Russia does not conclude a bilateral agreement with Byelarussia [Belarus] on its share of Uranium sale proceeds," Byelarussian Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb told a news conference on results of his U.S. visit here today.

Byelarussia and the United States have also agreed on payment of compensation to Byelarussia in evasion of Russia, and a center for Byelarussian nuclear scientists. The latter is expected to receive five million dollars from the U.S.

Hryb estimated his American visit as rather fruitful and said that the U.S. has decided to unfreeze the allocations for the fulfilment of the Nunn-Lugar Program. For instance, Byelarussia will receive 25 million dollars for solving ecological problems and 16 millions for its borders. The U.S. has also promised technical assistance in measures against organized crime, reduction of conventional armaments and training of Byelarussian specialists in the U.S. Military Academy.

Hryb said that the next meeting of the republican Security Council may decide on Byelarussian joining of the NATO Partnership for Peace Program.

Gas Deliveries Resume From Russia

LD2211134294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On November 18 Russia resumed full-scale natural gas supplies to Belarus, meeting 90 percent of the country's needs, Deputy General Director of Beltransgaz, a gas supply company, Dmitriy Anyuk told the Petroleum Information Agency.

On November 16 Russia slashed gas supplies to Belarus by half from 53.8 million cubic meters a day to 26.9 million due to Minsk's debt to the Russian Gazprom concern, totaling $428 million on November 11.

Anyuk said the resumption of full-scale deliveries became possible after talks between a Belarusian delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Valeryy Kokaraw, and the head of Gazprom, Rem Vyakhirev, during which the Belarusian side pledged to meet Gazprom's main condition: regular payments.

In 1994 Gazprom is to deliver 16.4 billion cubic meters of gas to Belarus. In the first 10 months 11.5 billion were delivered.

EBRD Grants Business Credit Line

WS2211122994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] and the Government of the Republic of Belarus have signed an agreement according to which EBRD will extend a credit line of $30 million for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Belarus. Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir—who was present at the signing ceremony—said: This is a very important achievement for Belarus, because this credit will boost the development of our banking system and provide real support for the development of small and medium-sized business in the Republic.

The World Bank will likely extend a similar credit line with similar conditions to Belarus.

IMF Declines To Grant New Credit

LD2111213094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1859 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Monetary Fund will not consider granting a new credit, $308 million, to Belarus. An official notification of this decision was sent by the IMF headquarters in Washington and reached the Belarussian [Belarusian] government Monday.

A senior cabinet official told Interfax that the official explanation had been that President Alyaksandr Lukashenka decreed in mid-November a return to the prices of the beginning of the month. The official said that the IMF did not believe that Belarus would set the prices free.

The IMF planned to consider the next credit on December 15. The Belarussian government submitted on November 15 all the necessary documents, including an economic policy memorandum pledging full liberalization of the prices. However, Belarus has not, IMF experts say, met nearly every other precondition for obtaining a credit. These include reduction of the number of monopolies which are covered by restrictions on profitability, adjustment of the wages and communal service tariffs and steps to reduce the budget deficit to within four percent of the gross domestic product in the fourth quarter of the year.

'Experts' Detail 'Inflationary' Economic Policy

WS2311104594 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1800 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Unattributed report from the "Analysis, Commentaries, Forecasts" feature No. 6 15-21 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Under the conditions of economic crisis, the doubling of the minimum monthly wage, which took place on November 1, inevitably entails the chain reaction "wages-prices-inflation." Scorning economic consequences, the president decides to pour oil on the flames, and issues the well-known decree No. 200 "On Measures for Regulating Prices for Some Foodstuffs, and for Social Protection of the Population." A number of prices—for dairy, bakery products, and baby formula, which had been raised by over 18 percent were reduced to the former level. By the way, the raising and reduction of prices cost the state 100 billion rubles [R]. These developments are a striking illustration of the fact that Belarus is yet not a civilized country, but a post-communist one where the administration is in the habit of using "revolutionary" methods.

In January-October 1994 Belarus' gross domestic product (GDP) declined by 24 percent as compared with the same period in 1993. Industrial output dropped by 23.9 percent, the production of consumer goods shrank by 17.9 percent, the output of foodstuffs fell by 15.9 percent.

Expected financial results for 1994 from confidential sources:

According to the aggregate budget estimates of the Republic for 1994 after it was confirmed by the Supreme Soviet and local soviets (taking into account the denomination), the revenues were expected to total R1.4 billion, expenditures—R1.7 billion, budget deficit—R248 billion, that is 6 percent of the GDP. The deficit envisioned by the state budget was supposed to be financed from the National Bank's credits within the limits of no more than 4 percent of GDP, the remaining 2 percent were to be covered by issuing state bonds and by means of drawing in external sources of financing—credits of international financial organizations and those of the Russian Federation.

But in the first half of 1994, the indicators of economic development ceased keeping in line with a major part of macroeconomic indicators stipulated by the Economic Program for 1994 and taken into account in the budget estimates for 1994. In January-September 1994 Belarus' GDP was more than two times the volume that was predicted in the Economic Program for the whole year, and dropped by 24 percent (in comparable prices) as compared with the same period in 1993. Inflation rates exceeded the forecasted ones 5-fold and more. The price factor caused a sharp rise in the indicators of cost in the development of the economy and, correspondingly, a rise in receipts from taxes and other revenues, as well as in the demand for additional budgetary expenses.

Besides, after the budget estimates were confirmed, the Supreme Soviet and the Cabinet of Ministers made a number of decisions for allotting additional budgetary subsidies to various sectors of the economy. In the first instance, among these decisions are the allotting of 150 billion rubles for conducting the spring sowing, making a reserve of fodder, and harvesting; as well as for measures designed for social security of the population. These measures were basically realized through raising the minimum monthly wage from R3,000 to R10,000 rubles. In connection with a failure to observe the schedule for price liberalization, which was approved when confirming the budget estimates, subsidies to keep down prices for bread, milk and dairy produce were given until August 10. For these purposes the government had to allot an additional R200 billion. The schedule of liberalization of tariffs for public utilities was not observed either.

All of this required the introduction of amendments both to the revenues and expenditures of the Republic's budget estimates and their interaction with the budget estimates of the regions and the city of Minsk. In accordance with the government's right guaranteed by the Law "On the State Budget of the Republic of Belarus," the government specified twice the republican budget estimates and local ones (resolution No. 529r by the Council of Ministers, dated May 30, 1994, and resolution No. 38 by the Cabinet of Ministers, dated September 1, 1994). The volume of the aggregate budget estimates increased by 280 percent against the initial one and totalled: revenues—R5.2 billion, expenditures—R6.15 billion, deficit—R977.2 billion, that is 4.8 percent of GDP.

The correction of the budget estimates in revenues and expenditures on the basis of specified forecasts with regard to economic developments allowed to estimate the feasible revenues by the end of 1994, and to determine priorities in expenditures under the conditions of an acute shortage of financial resources.

In the first nine months of the current year R2.8 billion were received into the aggregate budget (53.6 percent of the estimate for the whole year). In spite of the losses caused by a drop in industrial production (over R700 billion) and growing debts of tax- payers (as of October 1, 1994, the arrears totalled R71.2 billion, that is 2.6 percent of the taxes that were paid), the actual revenues in 1994 are expected to meet the forecasted figures. And what is more, they may be broken by an estimated 7 percent (R345 billion). This optimism is based on the forecasted paces of GDP changing before the end of the current year as about 50 percent of GDP annual volume is expected to be created in the fourth quarter of 1994.

In January-September the expenditure of the aggregate budget totalled R3 billion (49.8 percent of the annual target). Among the priorities in expending budgetary resources there is the socio- cultural sphere and arrangements for social protection of the population (R1 billion), national economy and, especially, its agroindustrial sector (R915 billion); the Chernobyl program (R221.2 billion); defense purposes (R133.5 billion); maintenance costs of law-enforcement bodies (R130.5 billion).

During the period under consideration R1.8 billion rubles (52.3 percent of the annual estimate) were received to the national budget, all the planned expenses were entirely financed. They totalled R2.1 billion (49.1 percent). But as a number of non-priority expenses were considerably reduced when the budget estimates were specified, so the demand for expenses for purchasing equipment, major repairs and capital investments and some other non-priority needs was not completely met.

First of all, the government financed the protected items in the budget (wages, pensions, grants, compensations) and other pressing expenses of the state. Besides, the government has found an opportunity (within the limits of the revenue and the authorized volume of budget deficit) to defer (until September 1, 1995) the repayment by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs of the budget loans totalling R150 billion, allocated to collective and state farms in the first half-year. In October 1994, the government allotted without compensation another R30 billion for supporting the agrarian sector with a view to compensate partially the losses afflicted by this year's drought, and to set aside fuel reserves for maintaining social establishments in rural areas.

In the first nine months of the current year, the budget deficit totalled R373.3 billion; for its financing the government used the National Bank's credits worth R318.9 billion (65 percent of the annual limit), credits of foreign states and international financial organizations - R192.6 billion (40 percent), receipts from selling securities—R1.5 billion (about 20 percent).

The budget deficit made up 3.74 percent of GDP, which is less than the figure that was confirmed by the Supreme Soviet (6 percent of GDP). The government drew in the National Bank's credits - 3.2 percent of GDP, which is also less than the figure that was legislatively fixed (4 percent). That was reached by means of tough measures when specifying the budget estimates and financing expenses.

In January-September the local budgets' revenues topped the expenditures by R57 billion (revenues—R1.3 billion, expenditures R1.2 billion). The degree of their realization is slightly higher than that of the national budget (by 5-6 points), which is conditioned by a more stable receiving of the incomes assigned to the local budgets (taxes on the population, payments for public utilities, and so on).

The results of the first nine months of the current year, an analysis of economic developments before the end of the year, realization of the program arrangements for overcoming the crisis tendencies and stabilizing the economy allow to predict that the annual revenue will be ensured in the forecasted sums, the expenditures will be financed in the planned volumes. Budget deficit is expected to account for 2.7 percent of GDP, that is 2.9 percent less than determined by the program, and to be financed by the National Bank's credits (R490 billion, foreign credits (R480 billion)), issuing state bonds (R7.7 billion rubles). At the same time, not all the problems in financing will be completely resolved. Demand for additional subsidies is kept practically everywhere under the items of expenditures. Among the most pressing problems as with regard to the state budget are as follows:

1. The government has failed to find resources for entirely financing capital investments. In connection with a sharp rise in construction costs and the practically uncontrolled drawing of estimates, the government expects debts to exceed R200 billion for the works finished by the end of the year, that is about a third of the budgetary subsidies that were allotted for these purposes in 1994.

2. The government expects the budget organizations' sizable debts for thermal power and public utilities. But if the forecasted revenues from taxes and the National Bank's credits for financing budget deficit are received, these debts will be partially paid off.

After analyzing the financial results of the 11 months of the current year and taking into account actual foreign credits for financing the budget deficit, the Ministry of Finance will submit their proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers for paying off debts in major construction and municipal economy. In this connection the expected budget deficit may be specified.

As of October 1, 1994, the foreign debts of the Republic totalled $1.16 billion US dollars (without interest), including:

Under credits that were given to the government, and are to be paid off partially or entirely from the budget (rehabilitation and institutional loans of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, credits of the United States, the EC Commission, and Germany for purchasing socially important goods—$569.3 million;

Under credits that were given to ministries, enterprises and organizations, and are to be paid off from their own resources—$140.2 million;

Under technical (payment) credits of Russia— $451.3 million.

It is expected that by the end of 1994, the foreign debts of the Republic will total $1.3 billion (the Supreme Soviet fixed a limit of $2 billion).

Oil Exploration Requires Additional Funding

WS2311110494 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1800 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Report by Dzmitryy Viktaraw from the "Analysis, Commentaries, Forecasts" feature No. 6 15-21 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Good news has been received from Belarusian geologists: They have managed to discover two more vast areas of oil beds in the southeast of Homel Oblast. And the number of the oil-fields where prospecting works have been carried out and feasibility studies conducted has approached 60. True, the forecasted reserves of the "black gold" range from several thousands to 35 million tonnes. However, according to geologists, over 160 million tonnes have been discovered in the country. If the current pace in pumping out is kept, the extraction of this will take 80 years. The problem is that the underground reserves are, as a rule, not large and situated deep enough. The working of meager strata is complicated and requires huge expenses, and because of technological difficulties only a third of the prospected resources can be extracted, the remaining two thirds will have two wait for better times. The introduction of the new advanced technologies in prospecting and extraction, that are successfully used abroad, is impossible without substantial hard currency injections, which is beyond today's potential of the Belarusian economy, which is living through hard times. Thus, the Republic possessing a theoretically good fuel potential is not able to lessen the dependence of its economy on the foreign providers of fuel and energy resources that are in an acute shortage. That is why the oil and gas tap in the hands of people invested with power often turns into a militiaman's stick pointing out which path a sovereign state must follow. [passage omitted]

Moldova

Sangheli on U.S. Loans, Russian Gas Supplies

AU2211160394 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2036 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/11/1994—"I felt total support from the United States and World Bank officials with whom I met in Washington," stated this evening Premier Andrei Sangheli on his return in Chisinau. "Problems regarding economic reformation in Moldova, granting of a financial support as well as investments in the Moldovan economy were discussed during our meetings," Sangheli said. According to the signed agreement, the World Bank will grant Moldova a loan of $60 million at an interest rate of 10 percent for 20 years. The first portion of $30 million will be granted in November-December, 1994. It will be used to cover the budget deficit, retrain personnel and cover expenses for importing energy resources. He said that "offering the credit, the World Bank made several conditions which Moldova is obliged to respect." Also, an agreement that the United States will grant Moldova assistance consisting of 80,000 tonnes of wheat was signed. Talks on elaborating special programs for 1995 for Moldova which would prepare personnel in the economic, financial and reform areas were conducted.

Referring to the negotiations conducted today with Russian and GASPROM officials, Premier Sangheli stated that gas will be delivered at full capacity starting today. He said that a schedule for debts payment was made. Grigore Maracuta, Tiraspol Supreme Soviet chairman, also took part in the negotiations. Sangheli said that Maracuta "understood that only together we should do everything possible to pay off the arrears." Asked by BASA about Russia's availability to grant Moldova technical credits, Sangheli said that such an agreement was signed and it must be ratified by the Moldovan and Russian Parliaments. However, he did not specify the amount of the credit.

Official Calls For U.S. Assistance in Dniester

AU2211160594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2117 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 21/11/1994—The international community has to oversee the 14th Army withdrawal from the Moldovan eastern districts and this can be accomplished through the NATO program Partnership for Peace, said from Washington Parliament Vice Chairman Nicolae Andronic, head of Moldovan delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, to Chisinau Radio. Andronic said that he insisted on this thesis at the NATO meeting, as well as at the important meetings with officials from Pentagon, State Department, and U.S. Vice President Al Gore. The head of the Moldovan delegation also said that he has informed the U.S. officials of the current situation in the Dniester region and firmly pleaded for U.S. presence in Moldova. Also, Andronic requested that international peacekeeping forces be introduced in eastern Moldova.

He motivated this recent Chisinau officials' option with the fact that "the mono-nationalist forces, that is, the Russians" have created a situation that puts Moldova in a disadvantage. Andronic pointed out that under the cover of the Russian peacekeeping forces the strengthening of the Tiraspol secessionist regime continues.

"The NATO Parliamentary Assembly accepted the Moldovan proposal to circulate the notion of the Newly Independent States for the former Soviet republics," said Andronic stressing that he insisted on distinguishing between Moldova and the CIS. Moldova wishes to collaborate with the CIS countries and refuses to be represented on international level by top institutions of this community, pointed out Andronic to the Chisinau Radio station. Also, Andronic said that presently actions are taken through diplomatic channels to organize an official visit by President Mircea Snegur to the United States.

Russia Reduces Contingent

LD2211183094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Russian Federation started cutting down the strength of its peacekeepers stationed in the security zone in Transdniestria, commander of Russian peacekeepers in this Moldova's region Major General Asad Khachaturov declared to Interfax on Tuesday.

In his words, four battalions of the 27th Motor Rifle Division stationed in Transdniestria are supposed to be replaced for two other battalions of the same division. Khachaturov declared that this decision is explained by a relative stabilization of the military-political situation in the region.

For his part, Russian Ambassador to Moldova Vladimir Plechko declared to Interfax that reduction of forces would be carried out "taking into consideration opinions of Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol."

Party Leader Regrets Peacekeeper Cuts

AU2211150694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2036 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 19/11/1994—Russia's decision to reduce peace keeping forces in the Dniester conflict area might have unpredictable consequences, according to Party of Liberal Democracy co-chairman Nicolae Chirtoaca, former presidential military counselor. He believes that after signing the 14th Army's withdrawal agreement, a fragile balance was set in Dniester and therefore Moscow's decision is not welcome. "After signing the agreement the situation in the security zone was destabilized and Russia's decision to reduce its peace keeping forces will lead to incalculable consequences of which radical political organizations can take advantage," Chirtoaca said. The only formal justification is Russia's large expenses for peace keepers. The unilateral reduction of peace keepers is a violation of the July 21 1992 Moldovan-Russian Agreement. Thus, Moscow tries to influence Chisinau and Tiraspol to settle as soon as possible the conflict, said Chirtoaca, mentioning that such methods are insufficient.

General Lebed Says 14th Army Will Remain

MM2211170594 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the Russian 14th Army, by Rodion Morozov; date, place not given: "General Lebed: 'I Will Remain a General'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is certainly hard today to find another military man who enjoys such popularity both in the army and among the people as does Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army. He is forecast to have a most brilliant future. Many people are even inclined to see him as president. However the general himself has a diametrically opposing view on this score. He has given the army 25 years, he loves it, and does not believe that what he has achieved to date is the limit. That is why our conversation with him will be about the army. With a touch of politics.

[Morozov] Aleksandr Ivanovich, one cannot fail to notice the disastrous position of the Russian Armed Forces now. Many people see Army cutbacks as the panacea. What do you, a general with the highest rating in army circles today, think about this?

[Lebed] Do I think that the army can be saved from collapsing once and for all by cutbacks? No and no again. Some people have now dug their heels in and keep on harping on that the Army equals 1 percent of the country's population. And that must not be allowed. Nor is what Yushenkov says right: "We must find out, we must calculate what kind of army we can sustain." Whereas we need an army that can defend us. It is indeed a good thing for an army to be highly mobile, to have transport aviation and helicopters, and massive amounts of troops can be moved vast distances within a short timeframe. That is, you can have a good "striking force" in some important area in the form of a division with affiliated units in the knowledge that you can always manage. But what if that opportunity does not exist? Thus, you have to make up for lack of quality with quantity, there is no other option. I can talk about this ad infinitum but the fact remains that if a state, never mind a state like Russia, does not have a powerful, combat-capable army, no one will take account of it.

As for discharging officers.... You probably remember people starting to yell in the past: "Let us cut up tanks." We tried that. The cost of cutting up one tank proved to be three times the cost of the metal that would be obtained therefrom. It is the same with discharging people into the reserve. There is a law whereby the person being discharged receives 20 months' pay at once. But in reality the funding is based on the calculation of one month's pay per head. That is, if I gave one person 20 months' pay, 19 people would end up with nothing. Moreover, we are after all obliged to provide an officer with an apartment. And consequently we are faced with the choice of either discharging people without a discharge grant or not discharging them.

[Morozov] Nevertheless journalists have repeatedly heard from the army leadership and from Defense Minister Pavel Grachev himself that in spite of everything officers' morale is exceptionally high....

[Lebed] What kind of morale can there be today when many officers—virtually the majority—are on the poverty line?

Captains and majors who have served 10-15 years in the army are forced to do extra work and guard stores and go out on patrol, effectively wasting themselves as officers. Since there is nothing more humiliating for a "state-funded"—and I am not afraid of this word—person who voluntarily entered state service than the situation where the state cannot provide him with the essentials.

An officer must have healthy self-esteem and be a careerist in the good sense of the word. But we have an army in which officers devote no more than 10-15 percent of their time to the service.

[Morozov] You have broached one of the most painful topics for the army now, namely the shortage of personnel. What solution do you suggest: tightening up accountability for draft-dodging, taking some kind of "draconian" measures?

[Lebed] Today we have a host of 18-year olds who suddenly turn out to be suffering from all sorts of ailments when they undergo a medical examination. The result being that a good half are not fit for service. Some—the minority—are "faking." The majority are indeed sick. It is more costly for us to drag them into the army forcibly. What is the good of them? Thus, there is once again only one solution. It is necessary to create a program at state level to improve young people's health. The state must fund a normal system of physical training and sports camps so as to ensure that a young man graduates from school hale and hearty, ready for any turn of fate. Rather than a breathless wreck who has smoked and inhaled to his heart's content, hunchbacked and lame. Think for just a minute about the kind of basic raw material that the army is working with today. I am not about to absolve it of responsibility for its soldiers nor am I shirking responsibility myself. The number that turns up should be the number that leaves. Not sick and lame, but hale and hearty lads capable of being a support for their parents. But an 18-year old guy joins the army, someone who has already effectively been molded and educated by the society in which we live. And he brings with him nonregulation relations, the foundation of which is laid back in school, technical college, or vocational and technical college.

[Morozov] The 14th Army is said to be one of the most combat-capable in the Russian Armed Forces. Is that true?

[Lebed] Let us say this: I can put up any of my tank crews or gun crews in any district for any championship you like and I can be confident that they will not let me down or discredit me. We have focused our attention on the main thing, to wit, professionalism. Hence the high results. People here respect and value themselves, and therefore they work wonders. I will let you into a secret. We are carrying out an experiment: We have decided to find out what the Russian soldier of the future should be like. We took an airborne reconnaissance company and gave them the "green berets" training program while at the same time upping the normatives by a third or more. And they exceeded these normatives. For instance, they have to do 20 chin-ups, but they did 25—wearing a 12 kg bulletproof vest. They passed the "test" in 11 subjects—which is exceptional for the Russian Armed Forces. If it is a question of driving, they would flash their driving license [tashchit bilet] and drive what came along—a tank, an armored personnel carrier, or an infantry-fighting vehicle. The aim being to get moving and split. The same goes for weapons, ranging from a sniper's rifle to a grenade launcher. No "kidding" [nikakoy klassiki]. It is all supremely realistic. There are five targets set at 200 and 600 meters, you get 10 seconds and five cartridges. And the marks are as follows: Five for hitting five targets, four for hitting four, etc.

[Morozov] It is said that you run courses to retrain the officers being discharged into the reserve.

[Lebed] Yes. We have indeed concluded a corresponding contract with Tsiolkovskiy University. Many people today are trying to make it in business having left the service while they are still young men, aged 40-45. But if a 25-year old has been an artilleryman, you will not make a banker out of him in five minutes. So, you have to start with the basics. You have to tell people the obvious, explain the nature of business, the market, marketing, dealers, and so on. You have to tell them what a share or a security is and what you do with it. And eliminate computer illiteracy. And then let people find out who has an aptitude for what.

[Morozov] Could you tell us briefly what the consequences will be of the 14th Army's planned withdrawal from the Dniester Moldavian Republic [DMR]?

[Lebed] There can be no withdrawal. I have already said: They can take away the name-plate [tablichka], force me to leave here somehow, but as for the rest.... The Army is 80-percent manned by locals. They serve splendidly and get high results in combat training. But they have relatives and friends here. They may be prepared to change their place of service but then someone has to give them a guarantee that their friends and relatives will not be butchered two days after they leave, which is extremely likely. But no one can provide that kind of guarantee. And so there is no force capable of making these people take their weapons and leave. No, they will remain here, with their weapons, moreover. "Withdraw, withdraw...." But where are we to withdraw to? Is anyone expecting the Army? No! And no one will run the risk of moving equipment from here in order to then pay Ukraine quite incredible sums of money for transit.

And what point is there then in dragging this equipment over the Urals, equipment on which so much money will have to be spent en route? In order to then unload it there in the muck and leave it to rust?

And what about this agreement whereby 65 percent of the weapons goes to Russia and 35 percent to Moldavia [Moldova]. And what about the Dniester Region? It is like my sharing out your furniture in your house and trying to take it away before your very eyes. Who would allow that?

A balance of military-political forces has developed here now. No one wants to bother anyone in the presence of the 14th Army. And this balance is so fragile that heaven help us if it is upset. It has no legal foundation. Two and a half years of peace, but virtually nothing has been achieved during the negotiating process. There is only one solution: to preserve [konservirovat] the situation. Hold talks on creating a military base, a group of forces, anything you like. In addition we have 2,500 freightcars of munitions in dumps here. And they must be guarded to ensure that anyone who conceives a desire to steal anything thinks: "There is no harm in wanting, but there are really strong guys there, and a fair few at that." Only the weak are attacked. Nobody wants to be "beaten to a pulp" and given a good kicking [na pinkakh vynesli].

[Morozov] You know, here in the Dniester Region you often come across the view that our leadership is indeed deep in corruption, but what does it matter to Lebed?

[Lebed] There are 742,000 citizens in the republic and by no means everyone espouses the positions of the regime in power. Anarchy reigns, the authorities have already lost their sense of proportion and all they are doing is pillaging. Everything that has been sent here as humanitarian aid has gone astray. The republic has been torn asunder before our very eyes. Some 17 ministries, 18 or 19 directorates, committees, and subcommittees have been set up with a bureaucratic apparatus that is quite shocking on a local scale, all with their own buildings, vehicles, office furniture, and tinted glass. Yet their sphere of activity is confined to Tiraspol city limits. And look at the two repressive—in the full meaning of the word—organs—the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the Ministry of State Security, which do nothing but guard the honor, dignity, and goods and chattels of the DMR leaders and their families! All this directly concerns me and the 14th Army. Take this simple example. A so-called "school war" is now under way between supporters of the Cyrillic and the Latin alphabets. Absurd? As a result of this war the railroad has been closed: People are lying on the tracks. But I have freightcars full of food hanging around in Ukraine. Now they are trying to close the highways. If the road to Bendery is closed, that is it, finito, because 80 percent of the food is brought in from Moldavia. Railroad personnel have also become enraged at the enforced stoppage and inactivity and have decided to strike. There is already hunger, people stand in line for hours for bread. And there will be more hunger and the weather will get colder. And no one in the DMR bothers about this. Must I too keep aloof?

[Morozov] You have repeatedly said you do not consider automobiles, dachas, and the other "joys of life" to be an incentive? What is?.

[Lebed] This may sound bombastic, but I have always received great satisfaction from the results of my work—and still do and will continue to do so. There was once a regiment, which, no matter what it did, could not get any mark lower than "good." There was a division that covered the Tbilisi, Baku, Nagorno-Karabakh route, etc. and I never let it down and it never let me down. Do you understand? That is the greatest pleasure....

[Morozov] Your refusal to receive Matvey Burlakov in Tiraspol on an inspection visit and your accusing him of "squandering the property of the most powerful Russian group of forces" caused a lot of hullabaloo recently. Various hypotheses were voiced as to the possible consequences of this conflict for you, however everything actually turned out quite differently and Colonel General Burlakov was sacked....

[Lebed] Yes, indeed, the Supreme Commander in Chief removed Burlakov from office. But look how absurd this is: Who appointed him? Again it was the president—26 August, a few days before the completion of the troop withdrawal, while on vacation in Sochi, despite protests from the Defense Ministry Collegium and the Commission for Top Military Posts and Ranks led by Baturin. Those against? Well fine! What is the Defense Ministry Collegium anyway? In fact it comprises the deputy ministers, the commanders in chief of branches of troops, colonel generals, army generals, people who have covered a long and difficult road and who are used to being shown respect. And suddenly their opinion does not count a cent? What have they become? Enemies. Who benefited from this? And who benefited from the complaints against the command of the Western Group of Forces [WGF] brought by the German police, which works extremely thoroughly and properly, being repudiated? I know from reliable sources for instance that Helmut Kohl, a politician who is extremely respected in Europe and worldwide, ordered all the riff-raff left after the WGF withdrawal—bureaus and firms involved in selling, resale, and thievery—to be booted out of German territory no later than the New Year. Not before but after the elections. So, scandals will now emerge. They cannot be hidden: Too much has accumulated.

Consumer Goods Production Registers Decline

AU2211151494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2036 GMT 18 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/11/1994—According to statistics, during January-September 1993 the most notorious fall in the consumer goods output as compared to the same period of the last year occurred in the light industry standing at 63.4 percent, says today's newspaper SAPTAMANA. A 50 percent drop is also observed in the foodstuffs manufacturing industry including canning and sweets industries. Overall, however, according to statistics, the output for most foodstuffs was 10-25 percent under the 1993 level. Retail sales are also characterized by indicators inferior to the 1993 levels. Thus, in January-September cash receipts for the goods sold by retail businesses amounted to 395,9 million lei, 50.8 percent of the last year's amount. Sales in the public nourishment amounted to only 49.1 percent of the volume registered in the first 9 months of 1993. This is due to a sharp fall in the Moldovan population's buying power, says SAPTAMANA.

Kazakhstan

Agreement With U.S. to Transfer 600 Kg of Uranium

LD2311111994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—A well-informed source in Moscow confirmed in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday [23 November] that an official agreement had been reached between Alma-Ata [Almaty] and Washington to transfer a batch of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan to the United States. Under the agreement, about 600 kilograms of uranium will be transferred to the United States from the eastern Kazakhstan region bordering on China and Russia.

The NEW YORK TIMES newspaper was the first to find out about the deal. The newspaper reported that the talks were conducted by the sides in great secrecy. The newspaper quoted an anonymous representative of the U.S. Administration as saying that the amount of uranium transferred to the U.S. is enough to make 50 nuclear bombs.

The uranium will be transferred to the U.S. as a country-depository, which is a party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, for purposes of diminishing the risk of proliferation of such weapons.

The NEW YORK TIMES said that the depot where Kazakhstan stores its uranium at present, does not meet the established requirements and that Washington is concerned that the uranium might find its way to Iran or Iraq or either be smuggled by arms traffickers.

Russia is also a country-depository, member-state of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The source did not say why it was the United States which had been chosen as a storage site for the uranium. However, the NEW YORK TIMES mentioned in its article that Kazakhstan was a "cash-starved" country which badly needs hard currency.

European Bank To Assist Banking, Agriculture, Industry

LD2211132294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development next year is going to grant Kazakhstan loans totalling between 200 and 230 million ECU's ($250 million to $290 million), according to a source in the former Soviet Republic's government.

The money is to be spent on improving Kazakhstan's banking system and agriculture, building an investment fund to bolster the Central Asian republic's private sector, developing oil, gas and copper deposits in the Dzhegkazgan Region and a goldfield near Leninogorsk in the east of the country, and rebuilding the Caspian port of Aktau, the source told the Financial Information Agency.

The terms for the provision of the loans are to be stated next year. The plan to develop the Dzhegkazgan Region's Akshibulak oil and gas field is to be considered in March, the Leninigorsk gold project—next summer.

EBRD is also ready to oversee a Caspian pipeline project, claiming the same share in a consortium set up to tackle it as the other members—Kazakhstan, Russia and Oman, each of whom today hold about 33 percent of the interest, the executive director of the Bank's Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan department, Rolf Westling, told Kazakh Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin on 17 November.

By mid-1995, EBRD also plans to find a company to fund a project to rebuild quarries and an ore-dressing plant at the Vasilkovskoye goldfield in the Dzhezkazgan Region, one of the Republic's three principal deposits of the precious metal.

Last year the Bank opened a credit line for Kazakhstan to a total of 100 million ECU's ($125 million) to support its small- and medium-scale business.

Uzbekistan Reduces Price of Exported Gas

LD2311112594 Almaty Kazakh Television Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Uzbekistan has reduced the price of the gas it delivers to Kazakhstan. The price for a cubic meter of gas is now $65 compared with the $80 which we used to pay.

Finance Minister Interviewed on Budget

LD2211133394 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Nov 94

[Interview with Finance Minister Aleksandr Pavlov by unidentifed correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Aleksandr Sergeyevich, I see that our budget is far from one in which revenues exceed expenditure. And there are a lot of reasons and factors for that. But in any case, to what extent does this budget - the budget for 1995 - reflect the real situation in the republic?

[Pavlov] I would like to turn once again to the results of the previous budget for the first nine months of the current year. Unfortunately they [the results] are absolutely unsatisfactory. It is enough to say that the deficit amounted to 12.7 billion tenge, which is over 4 percent of gross national product

In these circumstances even the good intentions, which had been envisaged by the budget, unfortunately, remained just desires on paper. It should be noted that many social programs, I mean those fundamental issues which were discussed in the process of the budget's adoption, have not been provided with any source of funding. That is why, as was proposed by the resolution of the republic's Supreme Council, there is an urgent need to finalize the budget's revenues and expenditure, and this step will enable us to be as honest and frank as possible at the end of the year when we will say what the government is intending to finance and, the main point, what it can finance.

Unfortunately the poor state of our budget, as I reported at a meeting of the republic's government - and it is no secret for anybody - has been caused by the state of the economy, the nonpayments crisis and the closure of some enterprises. That is the first and main reason. In addition to this, the budget, unfortunately, lost a lot because of the internal republican accounting conducted recently. This has seriously affected the budget.

Thus today there is a problem of making the budget more realistic, of balancing in some way revenues and expenditure, of making clear which sectors we will fund fully and which sectors or issues will not be funded. And we should make decisions on these matters.

[Correspondent] Which branches will not be funded?

[Pavlov] Generally speaking, I have probably used too strong a definition saying that some branches will not be funded at all. Of course, the ideology of the adjusted budget preserves the financing of all branches envisaged by the version of 14 July. But taking into account the results of its implementation after nine months we see that the state can fulfill financing of only 60-70 percent and at a maximum 80 percent of the scheduled programs. That is why while finalizing the budget we counted all the expenditure of the budget-funded organizations on municipal services and on all kinds of works done for them and so on, and on top of this we counted the forthcoming expenditure in the fourth quarter. We have been forced to take a very unpopular measure - all expenditure envisaged by the initial budget has been cut by 15 percent.

[Correspondent] Will the situation in such sectors as health care, medicine and public education be eased next year?

[Pavlov] The budget adequately reflects the state of the economy. That is why whether the living standards of our teachers, medical workers and workers of other budget-funded sectors will be improved or not depends on the state of our economy. And I have to stress that the government is working on this issue at the moment. In particular, today we are carrying out major work with our major exporting enterprises. Our state delegation has just come back from Karaganda where it considered the issues of maintaining the work of our fundamental branches. The most important tasks are the development of the mining industry and normalization of the operation of the Karaganda metallurgical group of industries. This work is going on. Today we are looking for ways to help firstly the fundamental branches - enterprises which shape the state of the republican economy - out of this complicated situation.

[Correspondent] What about that part of the budget which relates to social issues? We used to hear in previous years that social security would be guaranteed. How are things this time?

[Pavlov] The government's policy on preserving all privileges has not changed, except one big issue, which is still to be submitted to parliament, in particular lump sum payments as compensation to the residents of testing-sites and the Aral region, to those subjected to repression and so on. The government considers it as necessary to maintain all the other obligations. There is simply no money for those mentioned above. At the same time the government intends to considerably raise the wages of workers in budget-funded organizations, which will be done by narrowing the current scale of wages being paid by the government. And already in December about 250 million tenge will be allocated for this purpose. Simultaneously the government, in order to cut its expenses as much as possible, is cancelling all unplanned expenditure according to decisions previously adopted and which are not included in the initial budget.

[Correspondent] And one more question, Aleksandr Sergeyevich. Was this adjusted budget for 1994 grounded on the existing taxation policy or on the policy the Supreme Council is going to adopt?

[Pavlov] Naturally, finalizing the budget for 1994 has been conducted in accordance with existing tax legislation, because the tax code, as I already said, will be adopted a little later. To some extent we tried to take into account the funds we received during the first nine months of this year as well as funds which we are expecting to receive in the fourth quarter, but, unfortunately, the policy is still the old one in principle. And presumably only the new budget for 1995 will be formed on the new tax basis. The draft tax code is being considered by the Cabinet of Ministers and will be submitted to the president next week.

[Correspondent] When will this adjusted budget be submitted to the Supreme Council?

[Pavlov] We have already given it a draft of the budget and all the supporting calculations today.

Daukeyev on Resources, Foreign Investment

954K0361A Almaty PANORAMA in Russian No 44, 12 Nov 94 p 11

[Interview with Serikhbek Daukeyev, minister of geology and protection of mineral resources, by Askar Aukenov, PANORAMA correspondent; place and date not given: "Kazakhstan Should Not Wait for Investments, but Fight for Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Aukenov] Your ministry has developed a concept for the regulation of mineral use and protection of the mineral resources of the republic. Please talk about its essence and the course of its implementation.

[Daukeyev] We constantly repeat that we are rich in resources; however, we have to state at the same time that our enterprises are unprofitable for some reason. What is the problem?

Previously, enterprises and their products were the property of the state—there were no problems. But with the appearance of private, joint-stock, joint, and foreign companies, engaged in the development of mineral resources, the state was confronted with how to regulate this activity. They remained hanging in the air. There was no one organ to represent the mineral resources of the country.

The Code on Mineral Resources and Processing of Mineral Raw Materials was adopted in 1992. But those working on it made practically no use of consultants and did not study world experience. It was necessary to adopt a regulating law, which we have passed. But it did not work. Contracts for the development of mineral resources were signed by anybody—ministries, heads of administration, and individual government working groups. Not one organ in the government knew how many contracts there were all told, and where and on what conditions they were being implemented. Situations even arose when two contracts were signed for one and the same territory; moreover, with foreign companies. Therefore a single concept for regulating and managing the use of mineral resources was needed. Such a concept was developed by the Ministry of Geology in November 1993. But it was not understood by everyone.

It proved necessary to meet five times on this question with the minister of energy and fuel resources. Although outwardly everything looked rather innocuous (protocols were signed), in fact the actions of the Ministry of Energy and Fuel Resources were of an antagonistic nature.

[Aukenov] What caused this, in your opinion?

[Daukeyev] The concept included a clear mechanism for granting the right to prospect for and extract minerals. While previously everyone enjoyed this right, now access to mineral resources was regulated through one single state organ—the Ministry of Geology. Naturally, some did not like this.

[Aukenov] That is, according to your concept the Ministry of Geology becomes practically a monopoly in the sphere of licensing the mining of minerals?

[Daukeyev] The Ministry of Geology by no means enjoys this right individually. The mechanism we proposed is rather democratic and collegial, but at the same time it is rigidly centralized.

Applications from all juridical and physical persons, heads of administrations and ministries, and others must be sent to the Ministry of Geology. The Ministry of Geology reviews the application. It is necessary to coordinate land allotment with the local administration, which has the right for any reason to refuse development or to impose additional lease conditions. After an analysis of the applicant's papers and coordination on the lease of the territory, the Ministry of Geology publishes the submitted application in the Journal of Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan. Over the month from the day of publication, we wait to see whether any complaints on the application or other applications to use the territory come in—the process of licensing must occur publicly. Upon expiration of the indicated period, the interdepartmental licensing commission examines the application and selects the winner. Afterwards, it determines the main conditions of the license being issued for the rational use of mineral resources. The license also stipulates the minimum work program, the sum necessary for the attraction of resources, and the conditions for returning the territory to the state.

[Aukenov] How opportune and understandable is this mechanism to foreign investors?

[Daukeyev] Without attracting investments it is impossible to elevate the economy, including the mineral-raw materials complex. Therefore, as a member of the government, I must facilitate to the maximum possible extent the investment of resources by investors. But in our country investors often encounter outright bureaucratic and economic obstacles.

The state should create an environment for investors; that is, regarding the mineral-raw materials complex, financing general geological exploration from the budget, monitoring, and prospecting-assessment operations. This is the minimum of geological exploration that is adequate for attracting the interest of an investor.

[Aukenov] What changes does your concept envisage with respect to the structure for managing the complex?

[Daukeyev] Vertical integration is needed: prospecting—extraction—processing—sale. It is necessary to establish a financial-industrial group, in each of whose centers there should be an extractive enterprise. Today not one extractive enterprise in Kazakhstan that is a state enterprise has a contract with the government on the conditions of developing deposits.

The ministry is now planning the preparation of licenses and contracts for existing extractive enterprises, and the creation of a financial-industrial group is being proposed, when an enterprise orders prospecting at the expense of its own resources and processes and sells the products. But under this scheme, a financial base must without fail be present. Kazakhstan banks cannot for the time being extend credit to producers, and foreign banks will not begin to invest their resources in a state bank, inasmuch as they do not trust them and they work only with private capital.

[Aukenov] One often hears the opinion that selling the flagships of Kazakhstan industry, especially to foreign ownership, is unpatriotic and ill-considered...

[Daukeyev] I am absolutely convinced that our leading industries would come to a complete decline soon under such a policy. The crisis is already being demonstrated both by mining and oil enterprises.

The quicker we implement our scheme, the quicker will we reanimate our production. The quicker they are converted to joint-stock companies and privatized, the quicker the republic's economy will develop. It is urgently necessary to activate privatization processes.

[Aukenov] Does the concept define priority directions in the development of the mineral-raw materials complex?

[Daukeyev] Kazakhstan occupies third place in the world in reserves of copper—this is a great deal. But according to metal content in the ore—63d place. It is simply unprofitable to develop these deposits. All standards are now being reviewed, and it turns out that out of the 100 percent of reserves that we have here on the balance sheet, 10 percent of some types of metals are left. That is, 90 percent are henceforth considered unprofitable deposits. But this should not scare anyone. For example, regarding iron, the remaining 10 percent are profitable deposits that have reserves of many dozens of years into the future.

An entirely different picture is observed in some mineral-raw materials resources. For example, Kazakhstan occupies sixth place in the world in reserves of gold and second place in the quality of the ore. According to the volume of gold extraction, we lag far behind the third "thirtieth." We practically do not extract gold.

Of all the oil reserves in Kazakhstan, 83.5 percent is concentrated in six of our main fields. However, the other 49 fields that are being worked contain 16.5 percent of the reserves. This means that the state should concentrate its attention on the main fields.

Therefore, a clear determination should be made here on priorities with respect both to the fields and the enterprises. The ministry is also engaged in this work, although, naturally, far from everyone likes this.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Fears 'Shouters, Politicians' in New Parliament

LD2211180394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 22 Nov 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Askar Akayev is convinced that only creation of "a real system of local self-rule" will ensure support to the reforms underway in the republic.

In an exclusive interview with Interfax Akayev underlined that now reforms cannot "break" resistance of officials that's why the republic needs "a firm self-rule" which would assist in counteracting the system of state administering.

Akayev reconfirmed that he "has given too much freedom to officials," especially to heads of local self-rule. However, in his opinion, it was necessary during the transition period in order to prevent "chaos and disorders which have existed in CIS countries." At the same time Akayev reported that in the near time power of heads of local administrations "will be restricted." "Akims (heads of local administrations) will be obedient because an institute of counteraction, local self-rule, will be created in the republic."

"None of the representatives of the executive power will be deputy of the professional parliament which is to be elected on February 5," Akayev said.

Akayev said that he is especially concerned over the fact that "shouters and politicians who need the deputies mandate for private goals and ambitions can appear in the new parliament." "It can turn out that it will be a nomenclature parliament made up of people from the former party elite as before," Akayev underlined. However, he believes that communists "will hardly enter the Legislative chamber to write laws, they are likely to try to force their way to the chamber of people's representatives which works during its sessions."

He said that electors are "too inert" now because they used to choose only those people who were proposed by the authorities.

Akayev hopes that a new generation will enter the parliament which has no connections with the old party-administrative system. However, the October 22 local elections have brought no new people to the new deputies corps.

Akayev said that idealization of the future parliament is "very dangerous. He reminded that the old Supreme Soviet claimed credit for the creation of the new Kyrgyz legislature to itself whereas the lion share of decrees had been written and proposed by the government and the presidential apparatus to the deputies for consideration. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Speaking about the attitude of the republic's intelligentsia to the events ongoing in Kyrgyzstan, Akayev expressed regret due to its inert position and underlined that "time can be lost." In his opinion, currently the intelligentsia is apolitical, passive, nobody hears its voice. In addition, he believes that the greater part of intelligentsia is reactionary. He did not expect anything else because "under the Soviet power many scientists and writers lived in comfort and did nothing in their academies." Akayev is afraid of indifferent and of politically indifferent attitude most of all.

He believes that now the nation faces the problem of revival and "nobody should stand aside." "But the president should not be alone in the struggle for democracy and market reforms. He will be unable to do anything alone if it is impossible to consolidate and mobilize all efforts to support reforms," Akayev underlined.

Authorities Spurn Cossack Rally Demands

MK2211144094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Sergey Kozlov under the "Incident" rubric: "A Failed Cossack March in Kazakhstan Capital. Neither Church Nor 'Russian Community' Backed Semirechye Cossacks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nearly 200 members of the Semirechye Cossack Union gathered outside the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Almaty 19 November. Initially, participants in the meeting planned to march across the center of the city and hold a rally on Chokan Valikhanov Square. But literally 200 meters from the cathedral the march was stopped by the militia and special-purpose detachments that came to its rescue. The Cossacks pressed the militia line somewhat, but could not move further. After a brief clash the Cossacks gave up their attempts to break through the militia cordon and held their rally on the spot, saying that they will not go until someone from the presidential staff comes to talk with them.

Nikolay Belorukov, department chief of the presidential staff, arrived. Talks ended on reaching an agreement that state counselor Kairbek Suleymenov, who supervises internal policy and law-enforcement agencies, would receive a Cossack delegation 21 November. In addition, the Cossacks requested guarantees that no legal action would be brought against any of the participants in the rally. They were given such guarantees. It should be noted that the rally and the march were not authorized by city authorities on the grounds that they "could provoke interethnic disturbances."

The Cossacks effectively got no support and were left alone. According to their plan, the march should have been preceded by a church service in St. Nicholas Cathedral, but the day before local Archbishop Aleksiy spoke on television and denounced its organizers. Right before the march got under way, two Orthodox priests appealed to the Cossacks in an attempt to talk them out of carrying out their plans. These two included the Reverend Valeriy, dean of the St. Nicholas Cathedral, who was specially dispatched by the archbishop.

Nor did activists of the "Russian Community" organization turn up to back the Cossacks despite a previous agreement.

Earlier such developments took place in the republic's northern and eastern regions with a predominantly Russian-speaking population, but for Almaty the Cossack action was an unprecedented event, all the more so because the slogans carried by the marchers looked rather notorious in the capital of contemporary Kazakhstan. For instance, they included demands that Kazakhstan join Russia "on the basis of the free expression of their will by all citizens of the republic." Apart from already traditional demands—"Give Russian the Status of State Language" and on dual citizenship—residents of the capital saw for the first time the slogan that read "Cossack Lands to the Cossacks."

According to the organizers themselves, the reasons for so unusual a demarche that took place despite warnings from the prosecutor's office and the militia were "arbitrary arrests and repressions against the Cossacks." Earlier, in Taldy-Kurgan Oblast, neighboring on Almaty Oblast, four Cossacks were arrested for staging an unauthorized rally demanding the registration of a Cossack community, because in Kazakhstan Cossacks effectively remain outlawed. The Taldy-Kurgan Cossacks, who were sentenced to 24 hours, spent more than a week in custody, which, according to their Almaty kin, prompted their protest action. Moreover, the organizers think that the republic's official mass media interpret information on the abduction of Fedor Cherepanov, an East Kazakhstan Cossack ataman, in a biased way so as to discredit the Cossacks in general.

Following talks outside St. Nicholas Cathedral, the Cossacks returned to their gathering spot, where they boarded buses that brought them there from various parts of the city and departed.

On 21 November, as agreed, the Cossack delegation under Ataman Nikolay Gunkin met at the presidential residence with representatives of the authorities under state counselor Kairbek Suleymenov. All the Cossacks' demands, including those on setting up a state commission on Cossack affairs, were categorically rejected. Furthermore, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Internal Affairs Ministry made it clear that the 19 November incident will not be left without consequences and that legal action will be brought against the ringleaders, because actions of the marchers bordered on a criminal offense. Documents have also been drawn up to do away with the Semirechye Cossack movement as such. They did not specify what this would entail, however. When asked whether he would consider the possibility of bloodshed in this case, Kairbek Suleymenov gave an answer to the effect that the republic's leadership does not rule out such an eventuality.

Report on 10-Month Economic Situation

LD2311105894 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 17 Nov 94

[Article by unidentified correspondent: "Still Living in Hope..."; from the DELOVOY CHETVERG supplement p 2]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Committee for Statistics reports on the social and economic situation from January to October. The republic's economic situation remains difficult and complicated. One of the main problems is the temporary closure of enterprises in various parts of industry for many reasons, such as the deterioration of the material and financial situation due to the aggravated problems of mutual nonpayments between enterprises and partners, and the beginning of the transition to real market relations where the success of an activity is determined by genuine demand for its products and not by norms, by the search for new markets to replace the old ones, and by beginning the structural reconstruction process. A natural consequence of this is the deterioration of the situation in the labor market.

Over the past nine months 34,000 people approached employment agencies looking for work, and moreover this category of the population is growing. At 1 November a total of 11,000 people were officially registered as unemployed.

The number of the hidden unemployed is even more considerable. The number of workers taking leave on the initiative of their management and who were working on a part-time basis was 90,000 in August, 83,000 in September. The number of people who have left their jobs voluntarily and of those laid off due to staff cuts is increasing. In such a situation it is necessary to intensify the creation of new units oriented toward market relations, especially in the private sector and with the involvement of foreign capital.

At the same time the results of the past ten months show that there has been some improvement in the situation in the republic despite many difficulties. In particular, the decline in industrial production compared with last year was 43 percent in January, which fell to 34 percent in March, 32 percent in June, 26 percent in September, and 24 percent in October. (By the way, in the neighboring countries, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, that figure increased by 28 and 26 percent respectively according to the results of the past ten months). There was a 41 percent drop in the gross national product (national income) in January, which fell to 28 percent in the period January-October.

The inflation rate dropped to 1.5 to 3 percent a month in the summer, to 0.2 percent in September. [sentence as published] It was 105 per cent in October and that was caused mainly by a 25 percent rise in the price of bread and seasonal rises in prices of vegetables and fruits. The price of fruit rose by 11 percent and of vegetables by 2 percent. At the same time in the nearest neighboring country, Kazakhstan, that index was 120 percent, and in Alma-Ata [Almaty] the price of bread rose ten times on average. In Uzbekistan the prices of foodstuffs in the retail trade rose by 20 percent, the prices of manufactured goods went up by 14 percent. In Russia the rate of inflation was 115 percent in October.

The table shows the dynamics of changes in consumer prices and the rates of exchange of national currencies against the dollar in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Russia this year:

	Kyrgyzstan	Kazakhstan	Russia
	The rate of the currency [som] against the dollar	The rate of the currency [tenge] against the dollar	The rate of the currency [ruble] against the dollar
January	8.51	7.88	1434
February	10.19	11.43	1581
March	11.65	16.71	1724
April	12.30	23.55	1790
May	12.27	35.64	1881
June	11.38	41.43	1952
July	10.98	44.66	2023
August	10.27	45.70	2118
September	10.58	47.01	2346
October	10.63	48.73	3065

Some positive changes in the republic's foreign economic activities took place. For the first time over the past nine months the republic's balance of international trade with foreign countries as well as other CIS countries was positive—368 million soms. This means that enterprises in the republic earned a certain amount of foreign currency which they need so much to buy raw materials and equipment from abroad. Foreign investments are being used more actively in major construction works. According to the results of the past ten months, its share of the total volume of work was about ten percent.

In the agricultural sector the production of meat and milk reached 90 to 93 percent of last year's levels but egg production decreased practically by half. That was considerably influenced by the deterioration of the productivity of cattle and poultry, the high level of losses and forced slaughter of cattle, particularly in the public sector. Judging by the results of the preparatory season for the winter no substantial improvements in this sector can be expected in the near future. At 1 November this year farms laid in as much hay as last year, one-third less of forage, and almost half as much silage and fodder root-crops as last year. Production of artificially dried grass flour was 15 percent compared with last year and one-third less of grain fodder has been laid in. As a whole, 21 percent less coarse and succulent fodder has been laid in compared to last year.

Production of potatoes and vegetables dropped by 12 to 20 percent. The situation in the production and the harvest of cereals is unfavorable. At 1 November the gross yield of grain was 64 percent of last year's level.

The situation in the agricultural sector influenced the level of production of foodstuffs, which amounted to only 57 percent of that of 1993, according to the results of the past ten months. The output of manufactured goods is slightly higher. Nevertheless, in the second half of this year the retail trade is becoming increasingly saturated with consumer goods which, in October, was 70 percent.

Judging by the results of inspections of the retail trade network in regional centers, the level of saturation of the retail trade with such foodstuffs as eggs, animal fats and vegetable oils, dairy products, sugar, potatoes, and salt is still high (57 to 100 percent) and relatively stable over the last month. Men's and women's suits, a wide assortment of knitted sweaters, women's shirts, pants, men's shirts, socks, as well as a variety of detergents were on sale practically everywhere. In rural areas the assortment is more meager, of course.

On the whole, from January to October this year consumer goods worth 2,872.4 million [figure as published] soms were sold to the population, which is 15.8 percent less than during the same ten months of the last year, including 9.5 percent less in October. By the way, in this respect our republic is in third place. Only Russia and Uzbekistan had smaller reductions in their circulation of goods.

In October the circulation of goods was 15.5 percent higher than in September. That immediately caused a reduction in stocks of goods in the retail trade for a period of six days. To some extent this indicates an activization of the population's purchasing power. The factors which caused this are the amount and dynamics of the population's incomes.

In January to October this year nominal incomes were 1.8 times higher than in December 1993. It should be noted that despite the considerable rises in prices, purchasing power in terms of some foodstuffs rose fairly considerably. So, in October 1994 the average income could afford 10.9 kilos of meat, compared with 6.6 kilos in October 1993; for dairy products it was 84.8 and 68.8, eggs—18.1 and 14, animal fat—6.7 and 3.5, vegetable oil—8.1 and 4.5 kilos respectively. With regard to bread, this showing decreased by 33 percent. Actual disposable income (in other words income after payment of compulsory taxes and payments adjusted in accordance with the index of consumer prices) was in October 125.8 soms on average, which is 9.3 percent higher than in September this year.

At the same time there has been a fairly significant differentiation of income levels, which depend on where one lives, works, how many children one has, and other factors. Almost half of the population in the republic have up to 50 soms per capita disposable income a month, while in rural areas 60 percent of the population have such incomes, in towns—30 percent. One percent of the population have per capita disposable incomes which are over 450 soms a month.

As the results of the inspection show, the salary is the main source of income for families. Urban families' salaries amount to 75 percent of their monthly incomes, rural families' salaries—50 percent. In September nominal salaries of laborers were 249.3 soms (including workers and office workers—282.5), which are 6.2 percent higher than in August. Its real value rose by 6 percent. Salary levels considerably fluctuate depending on organizational and legal forms of ownership. Workers of enterprises and organizations of leasehold forms of property have the highest salaries (440 soms), salaries of workers of shareholder companies are also high (345 soms), the lowest salary levels are in consumer cooperatives (127) and in collective farms (101).

Profits made from sales of home made goods and from services are no more than 15 to 20 percent of total incomes. These are mainly products of cattle breeding and commercial services.

Families spend their money mainly on foodstuffs—58 to 60 percent. Rural inhabitants spend less money on foodstuffs than urban ones do, mainly because they get agricultural products from their private subsistence plots.

The size of the minimum consumer budget reached 380 soms per capita for the population as a whole in October this year, 452—per person who is capable of working, 315—for pensioners, and 323 for children under 17 years of age.

Tajikistan

Telegram Received From Iranian President

LD2211185994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmanov, the president of our country, received 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed Shabestari, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran today.

The Iranian diplomat handed over to Emomali Rakhmanov a congratulatory telegram from Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of Iran, on Emomali Rakhmanov's election as president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In the course of the friendly meeting, 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed Shabestari spoke about the inter-Tajik talks held in

Tehran and Islamabad, and about the results of his visit to Afghanistan and Khorog.

In his turn, Emomali Rakhmanov thanked the president of Iran for the congratulatory telegram. Later, Rakhmanov informed the Iranian diplomat of the social, political, and economic situation in the country.

Russian Commander Urges Concerted Peace Efforts

LD2111113194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1049 GMT 21 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe November 21 TASS—Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin, commander of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan, has issued a message urging the population of Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region which borders on Afghanistan, to prevent the stirring up of a conflict between Pamir inhabitants and border guards. Such a conflict is being fanned up by certain forces on the part of the Demo-Islamic opposition, he maintains.

The recently emerging trend towards a political settlement of the intra-Tajik crisis gives rise to active resistance from the intransigent opposition, the message emphasises.

In the light of this the leadership of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan and Afghan mujahideen who support it show special attention to the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region which they view as a springboard for launching combat operations in central areas of the republic in the future, the message pointed out.

According to the Russian general, attempts which are being continued in the Khorog sector by Tajik militants to cross the border and smuggle weapons indicate that Demo-Islamic opposition leaders and their supporters in Gorno-Badakhshan have not abandoned plans to destabilise the situation on the border and around units of Russian border troops.

In order to cover up its unlawful actions, the opposition actively uses local news media, which helps foster a negative attitude among the population to Russian border guards and in a number of cases leads to direct support for militants by part of local residents in the overt armed confrontation with the units of border troops of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the general maintains.

This manifests itself, in particular, in smuggling activities, the blockade of border pickets, posts and roads, insults and threats levelled at the servicemen of Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan who guard the Tajik-Afghan border, he pointed out.

In this connection, General Chechulin emphasises, it is essential to keep it in mind that the border troops of Russia and units of border troops of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are guided in their activities by international treaties and agreements between the member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The purpose of their stay at the border is to prevent border transgressions and the smuggling of arms, ammunition and narcotics across the border.

Mindful of years-long friendship between the population of the region and border guards, the general urged local residents to restore previous traditions of disinterested assistance in the joint guarding of the border and in tackling economic tasks in border areas.

The Russian general is firmly convinced that complexities in relationships between the border guards and the population of the region have no objective foundations but are being artificially fanned up by forces that seek to sow trouble, discord, bloodshed and violence.

ICO Secretary General Arrives on Visit

Holds Talks With Foreign Minister

LD2311100694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the country's foreign minister, Rashid Olimov, had a meeting with Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and those accompanying him. The guests will have meetings with the president of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmanov, and Sharifzoda, the mufti [religious leader] of the republic, as well as participate in afternoon prayers in the mosque. An official reception on behalf of the president is also scheduled.

The delegation comprises of Safir Nasir Abdullah bin Hamdan Alzaybe, the chairman of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, Nuriddin Mehani, the head of the presidium of protocol and public relations, Munsif Kribi, the advisor on social problems, Abdusalom Mavlavi, the private secretary of the secretary general and others.

The information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry told a Khovar agency correspondent agency that the meetings of the guests will promote the expansion of our country's relations with the ICO.

Received by Rakhmanov

LD2311114594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0600 GMT 23 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today President Emomali Rakhmanov received Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

The esteemed guest congratulated Emomali Rakhmanov on his election to his high office and wished him and the people of the republic good tidings. They exchanged views on the political and social situation in the country and on expanding relations between the Government of Tajikistan and international organizations.

Hamid Algabid will visit the Oriental Manuscripts Foundation at the Academy of Sciences and the Muftiyyat [religious leaders office] of the republic. Together with his entourage he will be leaving Dushanbe for Bishkek today.

Statement Issued on Killing of Journalist

LD2211124194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 22 Nov 94

[Statement of the presidium of the Central Council of the Uzbek community of Tajikistan—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamidjon Hakimov, editor in chief of the [Uzbek-language] newspaper HAQ SUZI [True Word], and a member of the presidium of the Central Council, was brutally killed at the entrance to his home on 17 November 1994 at 1745.

The way and method of killing of one of the founders of the Uzbek community of Tajikistan is a planned and ordered action the aim of which is disruption of the traditional friendship between Tajik and Uzbek peoples and destabilization of the sociopolitical situation after the election of Emomali Rakhmanov, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan.

We demand that the law enforcement bodies urgently investigate this brutal action and reveal the killer of Hamidjon Hakimov, a well-known journalist of Tajikistan, and harshly penalize [the killer] in an open court trial. We demand that special control over the investigation of this crime should be taken.

The presidium of the Central Council of the Uzbek community of Tajikistan condemns any kind of terrorist acts and demands that an end be put to such acts. We ask the Supreme Soviet and the president to take appropriate decisive measures to protect the life of the republic's citizens.

[Signed] The presidium of the Central Council of the Uzbek community of Tajikistan.

Opposition Forces Prepare for Border Offensive in Spring

LD2111175194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The irreconcilable Tajik opposition is using the autumn and winter period to prepare for combat operations in spring 1995. This statement was made on Monday in an interview with Interfax by commander of allied peacekeeping force in Tajikistan, Colonel-General Valeriy Patrikeyev.

He said that the "relative lull" on the Tajik-Afghan border is connected first of all with climatic conditions, since at mountain passes snow is one-meter deep. The general believes that it is impossible to carry out combat operations in such conditions.

Patrikeyev said that the opposition smuggles ammunition, and weapons into Tajikistan. This, believes the commander, indicates that military operations are likely to be continued as soon as the snow melts.

At the same time, the commander believes that the opposition cannot carry out large-scale operations on the border, because it has neither forces nor means for that, while the border itself is reliably protected by border guards.

Patrikeyev said that the development of the military situation on the border will, first of all, depend on the political decision- making of Tajik leaders and the dialogue with leaders of the Tajik Islamic Revival Movement.

The commander said that if the economic situation improves in spring, many problems will be solved.

The general said that the Tajik leadership is fully complying with the inter-Tajik agreement on a temporary ban on fire and other hostile actions on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the republic (adopted on September 17 in Tehran). However, he said that in the opposition there are armed groups which are not under control of their commanders and which seek to destabilize the situation.

Islamic Opposition Preparations Noted

LD2211160194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighters of the Islamic Renewal Movement in the northern provinces of Afghanistan are actively preparing to destabilize the situation in some areas on the Tajik-Afghan border. Armed opposition bands are being assembled there for that purpose.

A KHOVAR news agency correspondent was told by military sources that up to 400 armed fighters have concentrated in the Anjit, Navobod, Choh-e ob, Layron, and Pomir areas [all place names phonetic].

There are military instructors and mercenaries from a number of Near East countries among the fighters. This indicates that the armed bands still want to destabilize the situation on the border, in particular in the Moskovskiy and Khorog sectors of border detachments.

Border Post Attacked by Militants; No Casualties

LD2211174494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0928 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 22 Nov—Last night Tajik militants shelled a Russian border post on the territory of the 3d Border Outpost of the Kalay-Khumb Border Detachment on the Tajik-Afghan border. The border guards opened fire in return. No casualties among the Russian border guards were reported, ITAR-TASS has learned at the Information Center of the Russian Federal Border Service. According to the main headquarters of the Russian border troops, the armed opposition constantly violates cease-fire agreements. In the period since 20 October, militants have carried out 50 attacks on Russian border posts. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan

Foreign Minister Meets With Afghan Counterpart

LD2211210594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks began today between the Afghan delegation and the authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan on subjects of mutual interest.

Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, who is heading a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in talks with the authorities in Uzbekistan, arrived in Tashkent yesterday.

Esteemed Lafra'i was welcomed at Tashkent international airport by esteemed Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the first deputy foreign minister, the head of protocol, and other high officials from Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the charge d'affaires of the Afghan embassy in Tashkent.

According to another report, the minister of state for foreign affairs arrived in Ashgabat - the capital of the Republic of Turkmenistan - yesterday en route to Tashkent. During their short stay in Ashgabat, Lafra'i met, Khalykberdy Atayev, minister of foreign affairs of turkmenistan. Esteemed Dr. Lafra'i, first of all, expressed appreciation for the constructive stance of the Republic of Turkmenistan vis-a-vis the situation in Afghanistan.

At this meeting, both sides held talks and exchanged views on the subjects of mutual interest. The Turkmen side gave assurances to the Afghan side regarding the creation of facilities for granting visas to the Afghan subjects, reduction in customs taxes, and the extension of telephone line between the two countries.

President Issues Edict To Halt Crop Damage

LD2211200494 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Uzbek 1400 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Edict by the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan on intensifying the fight against crop damage.

With the aim of preventing losses of grain crops, ensuring they are stored safely and preventing uncontrolled damage to agricultural products:

1. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakistan, the heads of administration of regions and districts, local government organizations, and the heads of farms under any kind of ownership, are to intensify the fight against cases where domestic animals and poultry are grazed on agricultural crop plantations, road vehicles and agricultural machinery are driven over such plantations, and domestic animals are herded through them; and any other infringements that cause crop destruction.

2. In conjunction with the internal affairs and local government organizations, the heads of farms that own crops are instructed to conduct regular spot-checks to discover cases of crop damage and prevent such infringements. They are to set up observation posts in those places worst hit by crop damage. If they find cases of crop damage, they are to take rapid steps to identify the owners of the domestic animals, poultry, road vehicles, agricultural machinery, or other cause of crop damage, and submit the documentation to the relevant organizations so that those responsible can be made legally accountable in material, administrative, or criminal terms.

3. The agent of the crop damage, which belongs to enterprises or organizations under any form of ownership, or to individual citizens, is to be confiscated until the owners compensate for the damage in full.

4. The Uzbek Ministry of Internal Affairs is to take urgent steps to prevent crop damage and is to set up the appropriate observation posts as a prophylactic measure. It is to take tough measures against those who commit infringements, and unfailingly call to account those responsible for every case of crop damage.

5. As soon as they receive documentation on crop damage cases, the prosecution and internal affairs organizations, administrative commissions and courts are to examine them rapidly and apply strict punishments to the guilty, up to and including deprivation of freedom.

6. The prosecutor's office of Uzbekistan is to strengthen its supervision over the execution of the legislation designed to safeguard crops.

7. The supervision over implementation of this edict is rest with Uzbek Prosecutor General Mustafayev, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakistan, and the heads of administration of regions and districts, of the law enforcement bodies, of farms and of local government bodies.

[Signed] President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Islam Karimov.

Security Chief Pledges To Release Political Prisoners

MK2211133094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Nov 94 p 3

[NEGA report in the "Uzbekistan" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago yet another incident occurred in Moscow involving the activity of

Uzbekistan special services against the country's dissidents. A group including Ministry of Internal Affairs Colonel Batyr Tursunov, formally in charge of the control of corruption and organized crime, again tried to persuade Yadgar Abidov (Yedgor Obida), commentator of Radio Liberty's Uzbekistan unit, to return to Uzbekistan, threatening in the event of refusal to do this by force. In the event of his voluntary return, Abidov was promised that he would not be persecuted provided he did not interfere in politics.

After an appeal by Uzbekistan political emigres to Mikhail Arutyunov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Human Rights Commission, the group's illegal activity was stopped. It had to return to Uzbekistan.

The previous analogous action against Abidov took place in late July, and was also cut short. Still earlier, this March and last November he was subjected to physical violence with the aim of intimidation.

The activity by political emigres from Central Asia in Moscow is causing a certain measure of tension in Russia's relations with a number of states in the region. On one hand, the authorities of these states violate Russian laws, but on the other, the presence of some dissidents in Moscow, who have no Russian citizenship or refugee status, is also illegitimate.

Speaking on the phone yesterday, Batyr Tursunov promised to release all political prisoners and drop all criminal cases against the fugitives.

New Agriculture Minister Appointed

LD2211172294 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Under an edict by the president of Uzbekistan, Rasulmat Husanov has been appointed Uzbek minister of agriculture.

Privatization Goal of 50 Percent by End of Year

LD2211201094 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Uzbek 1400 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference for the media was held at the Uzbek State Committee for the Management of State Property and Support for Business today. Topics covered included the state of privatization in the republic, the development of entrepreneurship, and the significance of the steps already taken to strengthen the economy. The heads of the republican funds and exchanges, which are now working together with the committee answered questions put by journalists.

Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chzhen, who chairs the State Committee for Management of State Property and Support for Business, spoke about the work that has been done on denationalizing state enterprises and developing the private sector, and about the regulations on this matter.

By the end of 1994 it is planned to achieve a 50-50 balance between the state and private sector, and next year the private sector figure will rise to 60 percent. In foreign countries these economic proportions are 20-80 or 40-60. That means that in 1995 Uzbekistan will be fairly close to advanced foreign countries in its development of this area.

The main stages of the denationalization process will be the transformation of major enterprises into open-type joint-stock companies, the development of private business, and the attraction of foreign investments. Closer cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and with the European Union will promote this process.

There are currently more than 1,000 joint ventures operating in the republic. It was noted at the news conference that the reforms have moved on considerably in the agricultural sector, that privatization is continuing in the transport sector, and that real estate worth 65 billion soms has been sold at 58 auctions. All the questions the journalists asked were answered at the news conference.

State To Promote Ecology Fund's Activities

LD2311093794 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian, 22 Nov 94 p 1.

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ekosan [Ecology and Sanitary] international ecology and health fund is actively taking part in implementing programs and projects aimed at improving the ecological situation in Uzbekistan and all over the Central Asian region, protecting the environment and people's health and preserving genetic stocks.

The Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution on rendering state support to the Ekosan international ecology and health fund. This resolution instructs the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, other ministries and departments which have higher and specialized secondary educational institutions, and the Ministry of Education, to include subjects on ecology in the curricula, programs and text books of higher and specialized secondary educational institutions, and lessons on ecology in the curricula of schools.

With a view to expanding the scope of Ekosan's charitable activities it has been given permission to organize lotteries, manufacture products and goods, and also sell tickets to attend exhibitions, appearances by cultural figures and other activities, to effect the import and export of goods and services from the fund's enterprises and organisations, and to set up joint ventures.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activities and Uzoptbirzhetorg [Uzbek wholesale trading market] are instructed to render Ekosan every kind of assistance in establishing contacts with international organisations, financial institutions and foreign companies, including commercial and economic companies, as well as attracting investors to finance and implement projects which are aimed at improving the republic's ecological situation.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and regional, Tashkent, municipal and district state administrations are recommended to decide questions of allocating premises and land for the central administration of the Ekosan Fund and its regional, municipal and district departments.

The State Television and Radio Company of the Republic of Uzbekistan is instructed to introduce into television and radio programmes sections such as Ecology and Health and Ekosan Bulletin and to cover broadly the aims, objectives and activities of the Ekosan international ecology and health fund.

Armenia

Russians Applaud Work on Nuclear Power Station

MM2111120194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 18 Nov 94 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "The Conditions Under Which the Armenian Nuclear Power Station Will Be Opened"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian experts are continuing to assist Armenia in the work of demothballing the Armenian Nuclear Power Station. The latest stage in this cooperation was the arrival in Yerevan of a delegation from the Russian Federation State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety Inspection.

I did not expect to see such competent and well organized work on starting up the Armenian Nuclear Power Station's power unit, Yuriy Vishnevskiy, chairman of the State Committee, said here. We toured the station, he said, and everywhere I saw quiet but thorough work. According to him, full checks had been carried out on the pipe metal and they were preparing in earnest for an inspection to ensure that the piping is intact. Yuriy Vishnevskiy believes that once the hydraulics have been checked the second power unit at the Armenian Nuclear Power Station will be ready to start up.

The Armenian Nuclear Power Station will be opened on one condition: If they are confident that it is ready to operate safely, Armenian Vice Premier Vigen Chitechyan said. He stressed the assistance that the Armenian side is getting from Russian organizations, including the nuclear and radiation safety inspectors. According to the deputy head of the Armenian government, a major joint program of work with the equivalent Armenian department has been mapped out on the basis of the results of the visit by the State Committee delegation.

Greek Delegation in Yerevan for Bilateral Talks

NC2211220494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1828 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 22. (SNARK)—A large delegation from Greece, consisting of representatives of government, business circles, as well as more than 20 journalists, has arrived in Yerevan today.

As Foreign Minister Deputy of Greece, Grigorios Niotis, informed at the press conference, problems of local self-government, business contacts, and other problems will be discussed during Greece delegation visit in Armenia. Negotiations in Yerevan will become a basis for signing an agreement on economic collaboration, as well as agreements on mutual defense of investments, air communication, etc.

Signing of these agreements are planned to be in the middle of December in Athens. Greece delegation has brought food aid, as well as medicine and medical equipment.

To Participate in Karabakh Peacekeeping

NC2211220394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1826 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 22. (SNARK)—Greece is ready to participate in formation of peace-keeping forces for stationing in Karabakh conflict zone, the Foreign Minister Deputy of Greece, Grigorios Niotis told SNARK reporter today. He informed that this problem will be discussed more concretely during visit of Foreign Minister of Armenia, Vahan Papazyan in Greece in the middle of December.

Greece diplomat expressed his satisfaction with armistice, kept more than half year in Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict zone.

Greek Presence Welcomed

NC2211221494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1828 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 22 November (SNARK)—Armenia would welcome Greece in the peace mission to Azeri-Karabakh conflict, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, Eduard Zuloyan, told at a press conference in Yerevan. At the same time, he stated, both Armenia and Karabakh reject the possibility that Turkey will be involved in peacekeeping forces.

Gas Supplies Cut; Russia TV, Radio Interrupted

LD2211182794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armenia has again remained without gas for an indefinite period of time. A source close to the republican government reported to Interfax that Turkmenian gas workers announced that they start cleansing their section of the pipeline, after the accident at the Uzbek section of the pipeline laid from Turkmenistan was liquidated.

Well informed sources told Interfax that due to this emergency situation on the eve of winter Armenia's government is considering an opportunity to negotiate with Russia on shipments of Russian gas to Armenia.

Armenia has not received this kind of fuel from November 11, due to this its industry works using a limited volume of energy generated by Armenian hydro electric power stations.

Meanwhile, broadcasting of the Ostankino TV company, Russian television, radio station Mayak, and Radio Rossii is interrupted for four days already. Armenia's Communications Ministry reported to Interfax that broadcasting was stopped because of de-energising of a relay station in Tbilisi due to an energy crisis in the neighboring republic.

According to a source in the ministry, Armenia's television and radio center undertakes all possible measures to overcome the information blockade. In particular, it started assembling a satellite communication facility which will help to restore reception of programs from Russia.

He reported that due to shortages in power supply the telephone and telegraph communication between Yerevan and Moscow and other cities and republics of the CIS has almost stopped. The Communications Ministry voiced a radio address to the republic's citizens with a request to abstain from telephone talks with the former Soviet republics.

CIS Committee Asks Uzbekistan To Deliver Gas

NC2111210194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1217 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, November 21 (SNARK)—CIS Intergovernmental Economic Committee has appealed Uzbek Government to take measures for resumption of gas delivery to Transcaucasus.

It is already ten days that Georgia and Armenia are completely deprived of Turkmen gas because of a trouble at the main gas pipeline on the territory of Uzbekistan.

As SNARK was informed in the press service of Armenian Government, gas will hardly be delivered to the republic these days. Practically the whole industry is paralyzed, and the population is given energy only an hour daily.

Georgia Energy Problems Stop Railway Communications

NC2311075794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0853 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Golos Armenii" daily), 11/22/94—A crash at the Tbilisi Thermoelectric power plant almost completely paralyzed life in the Georgian capital. As a result, Georgian railway receives no power and delivery of cargoes from the Black Sea ports to Armenia has almost stopped.

According to Deputy Chairman of the Armenian Railway L. Hakopyan, two diesel locomotives, which were sent to the neighboring republic, are hardly covering minimal requirements. The only hope is the promise of international organizations to lease 10 powerful diesel locomotives in Russia, to ensure uninterrupted supply of humanitarian cargoes to Armenia.

President: Reform Will Create 'Economic Revolution'

LD2211182294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has said that if the program of reforms which was approved by parliament on November 19, is implemented, the republic will actually face an "economic revolution."

The program will create a macro-economic balance, the market infrastructure and a serious economic legislation, said the president addressing in Yerevan on Tuesday the meeting with diplomats.

Ter-Petrosyan said that the program was recognized by international financial organizations and Western countries largely because of the truce in Nagorno-Karabakh which continues since May, as well as the relative economic stability in Armenia since June 1993.

The president described the adoption of the program as a convincing victory of democrats and reformers. He said this indicates of Armenia's irreversible advancement towards market reforms.

I believe that the implementation of the program will help us come to a logical completion of the national-liberation movement, said the president.

The program developed on recommendation and with participation of the International Monetary Fund, envisages the price liberalization, giving up of state subsidies, the elimination of the state budget deficit and combating inflation.

It is expected that at the initial stage of the reform prices for bread will rise 11 times, for electric energy—five times. In July next year prices will be freed. Heating, electric transport and rent will be subsidized.

At the first stage of the program implementation Armenia will receive from the IMF this year a credit worth $50 million for the stabilization of the national currency, the dram.

Next year, said Ter-Petrosyan, Armenia hopes to receive from different international financial organizations credits estimated at $500 million.

Prime Minister Leaves on Official Visit to Paris

NC2311082294 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0853 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("Lragir", "Azg" dailies), 11/22/94—A governmental delegation of Armenia, headed by RA [Republic of Armenia] Prime Minister Hrand Bagratyan, left for Paris on November 20.

The delegation will participate in a consultative meeting of donor countries, organized by the World Bank. It is expected that various credits for the total sum of $500mln will be received by the end of the first quarter of next year. The delegation includes RA Minister of Finances Levon Barkhudaryan, Minister of Economy Armen Egiazaryan, Chairman of the RA Central Bank Bagrat Asatryan and other officials.

"Azg" reports that the delegation arrived to Paris in the noon. They are going to meet delegates of the United

States, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, Japan, European Union, Holland and Germany during the coming two days.

A press conference with the Armenian delegation will be held on November 22 evening. This three-days meeting is organized by Europe and Central Asia department of the World Bank for Armenia and Georgia. Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and his deputy Teymour Basilia have left for Paris too.

"Agence France Press" reported yesterday that several laws, accepted by the RA parliament concerning liberation of prices, will allow Prime Minister Bagratyan to feel more confident during the negotiations. At the same time French agency mentions that liberation of prices for bread will probably result in social discontent in the coming months, but "President Levon Ter-Petrosyan promised to completely take responsibility for this."

State Minister Receives Egyptian Industry Minister

NC2211145794 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian State Minister Gagik Martirosyan received an Egyptian delegation headed by the Egyptian Industry Minister Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Wahid today.

The delegation is visiting Armenia in connection with the inauguration of an Egyptian center in Yerevan for the promotion of trade.

In welcoming the guests, Mr. Gagik Martirosyan noted that this center is being opened as a result of the dedicated work done by the specialists from both countries and springs from Armenian-Egytian interests.

Cooperation in light industry, the food industry, air transportation, and in other fields was examined during the working meeting. The guests were particularly interested in the progress of the ongoing partial privatization in Armenia, which could present opportunities for business circles in Armenia and Egypt to develop close ties. A number of Armenian-Egyptian inter-state and inter- governmental agreements are being prepared on investment incentives, the suspension of double taxation, and other matters.

Armenian Industry Minister Ashot Safarian, First Deputy Economy Minister Vartan Movsesyan, Acting Light Industry Minister Ashot Bagdasaryan, Deputy Foodstuffs and Procurements Minister Mikayel Grigoryan, Armenian Ambassador to Egypt Eduard Nalbandyan, Chairman of the Egyptian Chamber of Industry (Muhammad Tariq Amin), Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in Armenia Ahmad Fu'ad Raslan, and other officials were present at the meeting.

Parliament Approves Market Reforms Program

LD2211172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 22 Nov 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan 22 Nov (TASS)—The Armenian parliament has approved the government's programme of market-oriented economic reforms, on which occasion President Levon Ter-Petrosyan congratulated "all republic's democratic and reformist forces on the convincing victory" today.

The Armenian president said at a meeting with chiefs of embassies accredited here that the economic programme was a product of a team including himself, the government, the Central Bank and the parliament.

"The national liberation struggle of the Armenian people will be logically finished with accomplishment of this programme. This will be democracy's victory which is a guarantee of an irreversible market economy," the president said.

Azerbaijan

German Official on Relations, Conflict With Armenia

NC231107[illegible]4 Baku TURAN in English 0844 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, November 22 (TURAN)-—Yesterday Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister, Gasan Gasanov, received newly appointed temporary Charge d'Affaires of Germany to Azerbaijan, Michael Schmunk.

Gasan Gasanov mentioned that relations between Azerbaijan and Germany must be given a normal character and said that there are drafts of several documents, which are ready for signing by both presidents.

Azeri Foreign Minister informed Michael Schmunk about the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict within the framework of the CSCE and expressed hope that, a member of the CSCE, Germany will also assist to solve this conflict.

Mr. Schmunk mentioned that the German Government takes the problem of settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict within the framework of the CSCE and its participation in the peace-keeping operation in the region seriously.

Michael Schmunk also said that Germany is interested in development of relations with Azerbaijan. "We wish to see German firms in Azerbaijan and their investments in your economy", he added. Azerbaijan and Germany can successfully cooperate in the fields of investment, taxation system and air communication. "Germany can be a reliable partner and good adviser for Azerbaijan", Michael Schmunk said.

Aliyev Meets Governmental Delegation From Norway

NC2311081894 Baku TURAN in English 1148 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, November 22 (TURAN)-—Today President Aliyev met the governmental delegation of Norway headed by the Deputy Minister of

Energetics and Industry Gunnar Murvang as well as the president of "Statoil" oil company Harold Norvic. Accepting the guests Geydar Aliyev noted that signing the oil contract, the participant of which is also "Statoil" costed dearly to Azerbaijan. "Thus, immediately after signing the contract, external forces tried to make the situation unstable and to make a coup d'etat in Azerbaijan," said Aliyev. He noted that all threats on the part of former prime minister Suret Huseynov has been eliminated. Concerning the ecologic problems of the Caspian Sea" that matter was resolved during the meeting of the heads of the Caspian states," said Aliyev.

According to Aliyev, the participants of the consortium are expecting the adoption of the law, assuring their activity in Azerbaijan. "It is not a problem for us, and if the ratification of the contract by the Parliament is not sufficient we can adopt the relevant legal norms," said Aliyev. He said that negotiations was over and it was time for concrete activity, and that is expected from the Norwegian company.

Gunnar Murvang noted that during his visit to Baku, he had an interesting meetings in SOCAR [Azerbaijan state oil company], Foreign Ministry and the Parliament. He expressed a will for further development of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Norway. According to him, a government of Norway supports the "Statoil's" participation in the consortium, the experience of Norway in the assimilation the fields of the Northern sea can help in the restoration of Azerbaijan. A famous scientist and traveler Tur Heyerdal, attending the meeting noted that first he visited Azerbaijan 14 years ago and that time he first met Aliyev. That visit impressed him very much. "My visit is not of political or economic character [item incomplete as received]

Aliyev's Meeting With IMF Officials Detailed

NC2211161194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 21 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] President Geydar Aliyev received Peter Keller, chairman of the IMF East European Department, today. The committee studying financial cooperation between the IMF and Azerbaijan has concluded that the setbacks in Azerbaijan's economy are many, regardless of the successful achievements in the Republic in various fields. The sharp increase in inflation, the decrease in the value of Azerbaijan's national currency, and the failure to realize reforms in the Republic have created significant problems for Azerbaijan in its effort to secure credits from the international financial organizations. The IMF is reluctant to extend financial aid to the countries with an inflation rate of over 20 percent. So the East European Department has decided to keep talking and will adopt its final decision in January 1995. The department's officials are convinced that the IMF may extend its first credit to Azerbaijan if considerable economic reforms are effected in the Republic.

President Aliyev told his guests that Azerbaijan should not be compared with any of the republics of the former Soviet Union, despite its experiencing [word indistinct] problems. He said: Over 1 million people have become refugees because of the war in the Republic. One-fifth of our territory is no longer productive. Regardless of those problems, Azerbaijan has received no financial aid from any country. The absence of foreign aid and internal problems have created a crisis in the Republic's economy, an economy that was already in difficulty.

Aliyev recalled that the international financial organizations make their final decisions in accordance with economic statistics. He said: But economic issues cannot be separated from politics. That must not be forgotten.

'Balanced' Foreign Policy Outlined

NC2211222594 Baku TURAN in English 1317 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (November 22) TURAN—"After signing the oil contract a serious diplomatic fight for Azerbaijan began," TURAN was told by the high-ranking employee in the president's administration. After Geydar Aliyev managed to sign the oil contract and to prevent the coup d'etat in October, it became clear that the attitude towards Azerbaijan should be changed. Such opinion is based on the ground that the interested countries could be late or could lose the participation in the development the oil fields of the country. If to take into account that the economic development is not possible without steady peace, it is clear that Azerbaijan's neighbours will try to provide peace.

The period of inconfidence and uncertainty is going away and the period of creation of long term interests of the countries interested in Azerbaijan comes. That means that the period of "the lash" is over and the period of"cake" comes, according to TURAN experts. Positive changes in the foreign policy of western countries, Iran and Russia (what about Turkey, Baku's relations with Ankara has always been very good) witness that. In this respect, actions of Azeri government are symptomatic. Thus, Geydar Aliyev displays an intention to conduct the balanced foreign policy. He tries to have good relations with Turkey, Iran the West and Russia.

According to some observers, the relations of Azerbaijan with Iran are of great importance at this stage. Improvement of relations with Tehran let Baku to soften the crisis with bread supply in October-November. And Tehran's participation in the Caspian shelf destroyed the most dangerous for Baku political alliance - Iran-Russia. So far, the route of the oil pipeline to Europe can be through the Iran's territory. Most probably, both countries will try to improve their relations.

"We are not interested in full withdrawal the Russia from Transcaucasia, Russia's participation in the political and economic life of the region is necessary," TURAN was told by high-ranking employee in Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry. And the balance of the interests will probably be find out in the economic sphere. Signing of the documents on cooperation between SOCAR [Azerbaijan State Oil Company] and such large companies as "MOBIL", "EXON", "TEXACO" is expected, according to TURAN. At the same time agreements with Russian oil companies "Rossneft" and "Germes" will be signed. If they manage to balance the interests of all parties, it will be possible to speak about the long term stability, believe TURAN experts.

Resumption of Turkmen Gas Deliveries Discussed

NC2211223194 Baku TURAN in English 1248 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (November 22) TURAN—President of "Azerigas" State Company, Tariel Guseynov, said that Moscow's meeting among the heads of Gas administrations of the CIS concerning gas transportation was a failure due to serious disagreements in the positions of the parties.

The Uzbekistan's representative categorically demanded increase in prices for gas transit through Uzbekistan up to $2.5 per cubic metre of gas beginning in January, 1995.

Russia, which is not interested in high increase in prices for gas transportation since it itself transports its gas to Europe through Ukraine, insisted to increase prices up to $1.5.

Turkmenistani representative said that from 1995 the price for gas delivery only up to Turkmenistani borders will be $50 per thousand cubic metres.

In the near future resumption of Turkmenistani gas deliveries to Transcaucasus is hardly possible since the participants of the meeting did not find any agreement, Tariel Guseynov said.

The results of recent Moscow's meeting forced Azerigas to sent the letter to the Azerbaijani Government with a proposal to supply with gas only major cities of Azerbaijan-Baku, Ganja, Sumgait and Mingechaur - until resumption of Turkmeni gas deliveries.

As was earlier reported, Turkmeni gas deliveries to Azerbaijan were stopped on November 11, 1994 and due to this fact northern regions of Azerbaijan are not provided with gas.

From early 1994 Turkmenistan delivered to Azerbaijan 2.2 billion cubic metres of gas for $80 per thousand cubic metres with the price for gas transportation to Azeri borders. Turkmenistani gas deliveries total $180 million but Azerbaijan payed only $110 million by goods.

Azerbaijan's annual necessity in gas makes in average 14-16 billion cubic metres.

Emigration Figures Higher Than Immigration

NC2211222494 Baku TURAN in English 1248 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (November 22) TURAN—The number of emigrants from Azerbaijan in 1993 was higher by 4.6 times. The number of emigrants totalled 74,000 and the number of immigrants - 16,000, according to State Committee for Statistics (SCS). In 1992 the number of emigrants was 97,000 and the number of immigrants was 35,000, it is more than in 1991 by 31 percent and 2.1 times.

Migration balance in 1993 was 58,000 people. According to specialists of SCS the Russians, Jews, Ukraines, Tatars leave the country and Azerbaijanis living in the CIS's countries come to the country.

Last year 2,390 people left for abroad (excluding the CSI countries) for permanent living-80 percent and 20 percent for temporarily living. 1,640 people from them fall on Israel, 699 on the USA, 17 on Iran, 15 on Germany and 9 on Australia.

Baku Reports 'Lawless Activities' Increasing

NC2211201994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 19 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Internal Affairs Press Service has disclosed the following:

Although law enforcement organs have taken measures to work against criminal elements committing lawless activities and sheltering armed groups of bandits in the border areas in Balakhany and Zagataly Rayons, there has been an increase in lawless activities over the past few days. Three criminals, Jebeyev, Atayev, and Gurbanov, who joined in the activities of an armed group, were arrested and brought to the police post in Balakhany Rayon on 17 November. Three automatic weapons, 108 rounds of ammunition, and five cartridge clips [darag] were seized from them. A group of armed men arrived at the police post and demanded that the criminals be released. Their demand was turned down. They then attacked the police post and took several employees of the law enforcement organs hostage. The hostages were released after measures were taken against the armed men.

Additional measures have been taken to render organized criminal bands harmless and establish security in the region. The Azerbaijan procurator's office has launched an investigation into the attack on the police post during which several employees of law enforcement organs were taken hostage and later released.

Meanwhile, the Beylagan Rayon Executive Authority has called to inform us that illegal arms continue to be handed over as a result of measures implemented jointly by the police and procuracy officials. Eleven automatic weapons, two machine guns, 76 hand grenades, 10,000 rounds of ammunition for various types of automatic weapons, 20 antitank missiles, a field radio, a grenade launcher, and various types of military equipment have been voluntarily handed over to the officials. The officials continue to take measures in the rayon.

Georgia

Launch Pad To Be Built at French Space Site

LD2211135294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The biggest European aerospace company Aerospatiale has agreed in principle that the Khrunichev research and production space center, a leading Russian manufacturer of space equipment, will build a launching site for the Russian Proton-M booster rocket at the French space launching site in Kourou, South America.

The general director of the Khrunichev center, Anatoliy Kiselyov, told Interfax that the producer of the European booster rocket Ariane-4 has confirmed interest in developing a cooperation system in the market of commercial launchings, suggested by Russia last September.

The launching site for Proton-M is to be built at the expense of the Khrunichev center next to the launching complex for the European rocket of a new generation Ariane-5. This should make the project much cheaper because the maintenance of the Russian and European carriers will require similar infrastructures, Kiselyov said.

He said the existence of two sites will make the timeframe of contracts for launching spacecrafts much more reliable.

Kiselyov stressed that the project which the two major rocket-producers are now working out will require thorough preparation as well as support at government level from all interested sides, including the USA.

22-24 commercial satellites are annually launched in the world to geostationary orbits. Over 60 percent are launched with Ariane-4 booster rockets made by Aerospatiale which until recently actively resisted Russia's admission to the market of commercial launchings.

Foreign Minister's Greek Visit Cements Economic Ties

AU2211173394 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 15-16 Nov 94 p 2

[Report by Shalva Gabunia: "Greek Businessmen Are Ready To Work in Georgia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The official visit of Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze to Greece took place on 7-11 November this year. It was completely financed by the Greek side.

On 16 November, Aleksandr Chikvaidze informed journalists that, during this visit, five documents were signed:

1. A protocol on cooperation between the ministries of foreign affairs;
2. An agreement in the sphere of education, science, and culture;
3. An agreement in the sphere of postal communications and telecommunications;
4. An agreement on the fulfillment of consular functions by the consular services of the two countries' embassies;
5. An agreement in the sphere of the protection of investments and mutual stimulation.

Chikvaidze attached decisive importance to the last agreement. He pointed out that, without the existence of this agreement, not a single businessman would risk investing in any country. According to him, the Georgian delegation met with 20 leading Greek businessmen who declared their readiness to start business in Georgia.

Aleksandr Chikvaidze also met with Greece's minister of the economy. It was decided that, on 23 November, a 60-man delegation headed by Greece's deputy minister of foreign affairs would visit Georgia. The delegation would include eminent Greek businessmen and journalists. This visit will be completely financed by the Greek side.

During Aleksandr Chikvaidze's meeting with Greek Prime Minister Papandreou, the question was raised of the allocation by Greece of a purposive credit of $50 million to Georgia that would be used to construct and bring into operation new enterprises. Chikvaidze said that, if this question is resolved positively, the allocated credit will be invested by the Greek side itself.

The Georgian delegation left seven agreements in Greece for examination, which will be signed in April during the visit of Greece's minister of foreign affairs to Georgia.

Committee Reviews Human Rights Situation

AU2211151694 Tbilisi KAVKASIONI in Georgian 2 Nov 94 p 4, 5

[Report by the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations: "Human Rights in Georgia 1993"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This document is the second report by the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations on the state of human rights in Georgia.

The first report was made a year ago. Our aim this time is to cast a retrospective eye at 1993 and assess without political bias the results achieved in the field of the protection of human rights, investigate impeding factors, and outline those necessary steps without which it will be difficult for us to make progress in this sphere in the future.

In view of how late this report was prepared, we thought: Was it worth informing the head of state, Parliament, and the government about the situation in the field of the protection of human rights in 1993 following a delay of eight months. After all, during this time, the criminal situation has changed, a whole number of serious changes have taken place in the economy, the war in Abkhazia ended a year ago, and so forth.

Nevertheless, the committee viewed the report as necessary for the following reasons:

1. We have already compiled a similar report with data for 1992 and, therefore, it was necessary for us to analyze the dynamics of the development of events in 1993 (this analysis will prove useful for our future activities).
2. Emphasis should be laid on separate aspects of the protection of human rights according to the 1993 results.
3. The 1993 results should be summarized at an extended session of the collegium with the participation of representatives of the public so that we can be convinced once more of the correctness of the decision adopted on implementing reform within the committee—removing the protection of human rights from the system of the Cabinet of Ministers and thereby conferring upon the committee a more clear and independent function.

At the same time, we deem it necessary to inform you that the committee has already formulated its views on the protection of human rights through the corresponding structures, their statutes, and other documents and we will present them to you for discussion in November of this year.

The committee, along with the Georgian Academy of Sciences Scientific Center for International Relations, has produced a draft law on national minorities.

We have discussed the draft law with the participation of representatives of the public and organizations of all national minorities living in Georgia and it has been adopted by the collegium for submission to the republic's Cabinet of Ministers.

This was conditioned by a separate chapter for the protection of the rights of national minorities.

These are in short the views of the committee regarding the necessity of presenting the report.

We are discussing human rights as the most important ideological doctrine of the contemporary civilized world and we believe that it should form the basis of the activities of the Georgian state.

In the totalitarian empire, the followers and propagators of this doctrine were dissidents. They shook to a considerable degree the ideological foundations of the "party" state and transformed the protection of human rights into an integral part of the struggle for state independence.

The date 25 January 1994 is special in Georgian history. On this day, by a decision of Parliament, Georgia acceded to the UN pacts "on the Political and Civil Rights of Man," and "on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Man" and the first optional protocol adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1966.

The necessary and real protection of human rights and human dignity is the cornerstone of a democratic state, which depends to a large degree on the political and economic and social situation prevailing in the country. In 1993, in the Republic of Georgia, this situation was complex, confrontational, and frequently dramatic.

In spite of this, accession to the pacts determined the direction of Georgia's state policy and it was recognized that human principles and the ideology of human rights formed its moral foundation.

By an edict of the head of state, a constitutional commission was created, which marked the beginning of the constitutional process in the republic.

The commission was entrusted to elaborate a new draft constitution on the basis of Georgia's historical experience and submit it to the Georgian Parliament for examination, whereupon it would be put to a referendum.

In accordance with the head of state's directive of 20 December 1993, a state commission on legal reform was created. It became clear that life in the old legal sphere of a different social and political system had become an inhibiting factor.

Legislative activity was significantly lagging behind the demands of the times. A new civic code, criminal code, code of procedure, and so forth needed to be prepared, without which it would be impossible to develop legislation in a systematic way and make it correspond to international norms.

Fundamentally important legislative acts were passed by the Georgian Parliament: "On Republic of Georgia Citizenship" (April 1993), "on the Right of Ownership" (July 1993), "on the Basis of the Taxation System" (December 1993), and so forth. In the view of experts, these laws fully corresponded to the contemporary norms of international law.

The joint efforts of the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations and the Ministry of Education bore their own sweet fruits: The foundation was laid for studying a course in human rights in Georgia's comprehensive schools as of 1 October. "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" was published with a massive print run and, with the help of the Soros Fund, a simplified text of the Declaration was printed for the younger generation.

Along with other departments, the committee carried out labor-intensive work: Lists of persons killed, taken hostage, and reported missing without trace were compiled during the period of the [Abkhazian] conflict; reports were prepared on the violation of human rights in Abkhazia that were distributed during the course of the negotiations in Geneva as official documents; many statements were made; a book was published in Russian entitled "Bloody Separatism"; the committee chairman regularly met with representatives from the UN High Commission for Refugees, the Red Cross, and other international organizations.

Moreover, these small shifts did not remain unnoticed by international experts. On the initiative of the German Government, the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution in March in which, in addition to anxiety as a result of the existing situation in Georgia, satisfaction was expressed with the efforts of the republic's government to ensure respect for human rights and basic liberties in Georgia.

The Political Situation

The year 1993 turned out to be the most complex in Georgia's history.

The Georgian-Abkhazian conflict entered a dramatic phase. On 16 September, Abkhazian separatists, emboldened by support from Russia's reactionary forces, perfidiously violated the Sochi peace treaty and launched an assault on Sukhumi. In spite of the heroism displayed by the town's defendants and population, Sukhumi fell on 27 October. We are not going to investigate here the reasons for the fall of the town. We will point out only the result: The entire territory of Abkhazia became occupied by Confederation [of Caucasian Mountain Peoples] and Cossack hirelings; up to 300,000 peaceful inhabitants became migrants on their own land; ethnic cleansing and genocide, unprecedented in its scale and consequences, was carried out in this region of Georgia.

During 1993, the process of the formation of the pseudo-political opposition into an organization of saboteurs and terrorists intensified.

The armed supporters of Gamsakhurdia, ensconced in western Georgia, used the Abkhazian tragedy to realize their maniacal aim of returning to power by force. However, the criminal actions of Gamsakhurdia and his entourage were evident to such an extent that the people turned their backs on them. Georgia managed to avoid a wide-scale civil war.

Recently, there has been a gradual stabilization of the political situation in the country. This has been facilitated to a significant degree by the more active participation of the UN, CSCE, and countries that are friends of Georgia in the process of the peaceful settlement of the conflicts, Georgia's membership of the CIS and the alliance of Black Sea states, its conclusion of treaties with Russia, and the head of state's successful visits to France, Turkey, and the United States. We are convinced that, in the near future, Georgia will manage to restore its political equilibrium, which will create a firm basis for the ideology of human rights.

The Economic Situation

The development of the country's economy has been characterized by a most serious depression and crisis. In 1993, compared with the previous year, national income fell by almost 35 percent, industrial production by 27 percent, and agricultural production by 53 percent.

War and economic reforms turned out to be incompatible. A person would have to be a very bold optimist to speak about the principles declared in the Pact on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Man when more than 90 percent of the country's population is living below the poverty line. However, we believe that, if it is possible to achieve political stability, improve the criminal situation, and resolve the Abkhazian problem, real prospects will be created for finding a way out of the economic stagnation.

Unfortunately, the measures that have been implemented so far have not turned out to be socially oriented.

At the beginning of December 1993, the poverty line of the average family exceeded 4.5 million coupons and the minimum value of the consumer basket per head amounted to 1.4 million coupons. The minimum nominal wage at the beginning of December was 1.5 million coupons. The minimum real wage, however, amounted to 23,000 coupons, that is to say, the real average monthly wage amounted to only 2 percent of the nominal wage. It is impossible to explain how Georgian citizens coped in such conditions.

The process of laying off the work force has intensified in the country. According to preliminary figures, there are more than 220,000 people registered as unemployed at the labor exchanges, which amounts to more than 7 percent of the country's labor force. Of these, 170,000 are unable to find work while only 1.2 percent or 40,000 have unemployed status and receive social security from the state.

In such conditions, we view it as wholly unjustifiable that legislative and executive power is paying no attention to social questions and implementing superficial measures whose essence is a mechanical increase in wages and state assistance. This is wholly unacceptable as shown by the statistics: In 1993, wages rose by a factor of six to eight while the minimum value of the consumer basket rose by a factor of 15-20.

Social questions acquired a political tone. Politicians felt that, by focusing attention on these problems, it would be possible to obtain dividends. Endless battles to strengthen the coupon and deal with hyperinflation and the activities of the banks continue to this day, but, unfortunately, no real results can be seen.

We believe that it is necessary to adopt cardinal measures at once, namely:

—The elaboration and implementation of a strategy for real economic reforms; questions of social protection should occupy a prominent place in these reforms.

—The elaboration of a scientifically-substantiated anti-crisis macroeconomic stabilization program for getting the country out of the economic crisis taking into account the recommendations of the IMF and the World Bank.

Prior to the implementation of any government decision and radical economic reforms, the social protection of broad sections of the population should be ensured.

We believe that these requirements are of a fundamental nature and, unless they are met, the state will be unable to avoid a powerful social explosion.

The Crime Situation

The political and social tension and the bloody conflicts have resulted in a worsening of the crime situation. Against the background of these events, a most serious situation has taken shape regarding the protection of human rights. The state has been unable to ensure the protection of basic human rights.

In 1993, there were 61 crimes per day. Their ratio amounted to 40 per 10,000 inhabitants. True, compared with 1992, there was a fall in the number of registered crimes. However, we are greatly alarmed by the increase in the percentage of serious crimes. They have risen from 32 percent to 400 percent; premeditated murder from 3.2 to 4 percent and armed robbery from 12.7 to 15.8 percent. [figures as published]

It is particularly alarming that 68 percent of crimes committed in 1993 remained undetected and, more regrettable, 60 percent of murders were not solved.

Crimes	1992	1993
Registered crimes	21,705	19,865
[number solved]	8,835	8,761
Serious crimes	7,726	8,735
	2,237	2,791
Including:		
Premeditated murder	770	878
	345	407
Attempted premeditated murder	167	152
	85	84
Grievous bodily harm	367	288
	201	144
Rape	60	55
	50	48
Theft of citizen's personal property	5,551	4,664
	2,223	2,012
Illegal carrying, possession, manufacture, and sale of fire arms	979	1,072
	777	1,061
Illegal production, acquisition, possession, and use of narcotic substances	550	871
	521	857

Terrorist acts again took place. Furthermore, there was an increased trend in this extremely dangerous crime. The committee believes that the basic reason for the increase in terrorist acts is the inability to solve them (one cannot fail to mention that, in this respect, the situation has become even more acute in 1994). The committee calls upon law enforcement agencies to take decisive measures to solve terrorist acts and unmask the perpetrators.

We should give special attention to the phenomenon of kidnapping. During 1993, the country's law enforcement agencies were unable to put a halt to this extremely dangerous crime. This action has been characterized by particular cruelty and has been a cynical manifestation of the violation of human dignity. In spite of this, kidnapping remains a concealed and so-called latent crime; moreover, the sufferers themselves very often officially deny the evil committed against them. One of the reasons for this is that the crime is not solved. The criminals are not punished and so people lose faith in the law enforcement agencies and often, through fear, do not make these facts known.

In Georgia, kidnapping, as a rule, is dictated by profit motives, although, recently, this type of crime has also been acquiring ethnic traits in the conflict zones.

A fairly high percentage of crimes were ascribed to servicemen. The view has become firmly established that crimes committed by them have remained unsolved, which, we believe, corresponds to reality.

In September 1993, a state of emergency was declared on the whole territory of the country. It was introduced by the Republic of Georgia Parliament on the basis of a specially passed law declaring a state of emergency. It is clear that, in these conditions, there was a restriction of civic and political rights, although a detailed legal analysis of the law shows that it does not contain such restrictions that contradict the requirements of Articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, and 18 of the pact.

Following the introduction of an emergency regime, the trend toward an improvement of the republic's crime situation clearly took shape. The committee welcomes the significant increased activity of the administrative bodies that have carried out several large-scale operations in different regions in the republic. However, it should also be pointed out here that, during the course of confrontations with the criminal world, in which military equipment and forces were used, there were violations of human rights.

In conditions of an emergency regime, citizens were detained on grounds of suspicion. It is true that mistakes made by representatives of the administrative bodies were rectified but it should also be pointed out that not a single person who suffered as a result has received any compensation, which constitutes a violation of Article 9 of the Pact on the Political and Civil Rights of Man.

In order to make the committee's position clear, we repeat: We support the fight that has been declared against the criminal world, but we are unable to reconcile ourselves to the violations of human rights and the debasement of human dignity in this process as the end cannot justify the means.

The Right of Man to Life, Freedom, and Personal Immunity

The Abkhazian conflict, the political instability, and the criminal situation have resulted in numerous instances of violations of man's most important right.

The Georgian authorities have tried in a comprehensive manner to settle military conflicts by political means, viewing this as the most realistic possibility to fulfill this right. The Dagomys Treaty made it possible to bring the conflict on the territory of former South Ossetia to a temporary halt. There is no more blood being shed there although it has not yet been possible to secure the return of the refugees and restore the jurisdiction of the Georgian state on this territory.

According to unverified figures, the military conflict in Abkhazia cost the lives of approximately 5,000 fighters on the Georgian side and up to 10,000 persons were wounded. True, we do not have figures for the losses on the Abkhazian side, but one thing is clear: The best part of the genetic fund of both peoples—Abkhazians and Georgians—was mercilessly destroyed and the most serious consequences of this tragedy will be felt by us for a long time to come.

The peaceful population in the conflict zone was subjected to cruel violence. The actions committed by aggressive Abkhazian nationalists are a terrible manifestation of barbarity, vandalism, and terrorism.

The first attempt to banish and expel the population from the territory and destroy it on a large scale was carried out in the village of Eshera in Sukhumi Rayon and subsequently in the villages of Likhni, Otkhara, Abgarkhuki, and Akhalsopeli in Gudauta Rayon. More than 5,000 Georgians were expelled from their own homes. According to eyewitnesses, in the village of Akhalsopeli alone, 17 persons were shot. They cut out 70-year-old Indiko Grdzelidze's heart; they killed Boris Topuria and then burned his body; they felled Elguja Maisuradze in the street for all to see; they killed the Nadareishvilis while they were asleep in their bed; they tied 65-year-old Nikoloz Gvabziridze to a tractor and tortured him to death; they shot 30-year-old Davit Minadze, a resident of Eshera, in front of his mother.

In the first few days following the taking of the town of Gagra, numerous innocent people were shot: The Baramidze, Chkheti, Barami, Gvazavi, Dzidziguri, Absadze, Nonia, Kutsia, and other families were tortured to death in a terrible manner.

The systematic bombing of residential districts and public meeting places in Sukhumi represented a particular danger; this was carried out at night when people were sleeping and were absolutely defenseless. According to incomplete figures, as a result of these barbaric acts, up to 400 peaceful residents were killed in Sukhumi and Ochamchire.

In July 1993, in Sochi, with the direct involvement of the UN and mediation by the Russian Federation, an agreement was reached between the Georgian and Abkhazian sides on a cease-fire, according to which, a tripartite commission that had been created was entrusted with laying the appropriate ground for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The Gudauta authorities, not stopping for a minute from thinking about realizing their own strategic aims, systematically violated points in the agreement: They hindered the work of the tripartite commission's working group on problems of prisoners and refugees and totally rejected the creation of a working group on the protection of human rights.

The day after the agreement was concluded, Abkhazian separatists continued to deport from the Gagra and Ochamchire zones the remaining Georgian population that had escaped death and had sought shelter in basements and dugouts.

The brutality of the Gudautians reached its peak on 16-30 September during the final phase of hostilities. Sukhumi, where, at that time, there were in the main returning refugees, was bombed daily. This barbaric act cost the lives of 52 peaceful citizens and hundreds were wounded.

The hospitals in Sukhumi and Gulripshi that were full of wounded peaceful citizens were directly targeted and destroyed. The maternity home in Sukhumi also failed to survive their brutality.

The brutal murder of Zhiuli Shartava, chairman of the Abkhazian Council of Ministers and Defense Council, exceeded the bounds of cruelty. Senior employees in the Council of Ministers were shot along with him.

The population that survived and had become refugees was forced to migrate across the mountains. For hundreds of debilitated people, this journey became their road to Calvary. More than 400 people, mainly the elderly, women, and children, died of cold and starvation.

While the Abkhazian conflict was continuing, hostilities ceased in the Georgian-Ossetian zone of confrontation, but it was not possible to reduce the number gross violations of human rights. They occurred both on the territory under the control of the Ossetian side and in neighboring villages populated by Georgians.

The Right of Protection Against Insult to Human Dignity and Punishment

The Abkhazian conflict brought to the fore the problem of the rescue and exchange of hostages and prisoners of war and protection against acts insulting human dignity. It placed on the agenda, along with many other urgent unresolved questions, the necessity of devising a mechanism for protecting the rights of prisoners of war captured during hostilities in accordance with the basic requirements of international humanitarian law.

By an edict of the head of state, a commission for searching for and establishing the whereabouts of citizens missing without trace, captured, and killed during conflicts on the territory of Georgia was created. Through its efforts, 100 Georgians were released by the Abkhazian side while the Georgian side handed over 50 prisoners of war to the Gudauta grouping.

Unfortunately, in spite of repeated insistent demands by the committee, the Ministry of Defense was unable to ensure the complete safety of prisoners of war. There did not exist a POW camp in any subunit of the Georgian Army. There was disturbing information that, in a number of cases, the enemy did not take prisoners but shot them on the spot.

The Right of Inviolability of the Home

The destruction of homes belonging to the peaceful population took place on a large scale in the zone of hostilities.

Regarding guarantees for the inviolability of a person's home, a complex situation also took shape in zones not affected by the conflict. Unfortunately, a citizen is not insured against expulsion from his own home if an armed person wishes to move into his apartment. During the course of the year, the committee came across unforgivable and disturbing facts of this type of violence. According to information in our possession, more than 100 apartments have been occupied by armed persons in Tbilisi. Frequently, the seized apartment becomes the subject of a legal dispute, but the executive bodies are unable to restore justice when deciding the case in favor of the lawful owner. In spite of a categorical demand from the head of state, the heads of the Ministry of Defense and the military procurator have as yet been unable to take effective measures against those who have forcibly occupied homes.

The committee insistently demands that the law enforcement agencies resolve this question within as soon as possible.

As we have already pointed out, in 1993, in order to prevent civil war, the Georgian authorities were forced to introduce a state of emergency in the country. The implementation of this measure spared the country fresh bloodshed and casualties.

At the same time, one cannot fail to mention that, during this time, there were cases of people being illegally detained and imprisoned. This crime is further aggravated by the fact that not only law enforcement agencies but also other government and non- government armed formations took part in these illegal actions. A commandant's office was created that, to all intents and purposes, acted outside the law.

In Tbilisi, in conditions of a curfew, there were cases of unsanctioned rallies being dispersed, which was accompanied by assaults on peaceful participants and the infliction of bodily injuries. These facts occurred because the republic's law enforcement agencies do not have experience in dispersing such gatherings using civilized methods, although this circumstance in no way frees the authorities of responsibility. Each violation and mistake should be assessed in a principled way and everyone should know that the state exists for the individual and not vice versa.

It is alarming that there are facts of the gross violation of the rights of journalists and assaults upon them by the law enforcement agencies. We believe that such phenomena should be halted in the republic.

It should also be pointed out here that there are no restrictions on the right of citizens to hold rallies and gatherings. In accordance with Article 21 of the international pact on civil and political rights, it is possible to establish legal restrictions that correspond to the interests of state security, law and order, and protecting the rights and liberties of others.

It is difficult to assess the situation concerning human rights in institutions within the Georgian penitentiary system. It is precisely here, more than anywhere else in the country, that human rights and human dignity are being violated. One can safely say that this system does not reform a prisoner but morally and physically cripples him and corrupts the personnel and, to all intents and purposes, prepares new explosions of crime in society.

In the republic's penitentiary institutions, standard requirements have been violated at every step. The situation that has taken shape here is very far removed from the minimum standard rules governing treatment of prisoners adopted by the UN in 1955 in Geneva. There are extremely cramped and unsanitary conditions in interrogation cells and prisoners are not protected from violence and brutal treatment. There are 12-15 people to a cell and, sometimes, two people share a bunk.

Furthermore, there are cases when, owing to overcrowding, prisoners sleep on the floor. The cell walls are damp.

Minors have been in a particularly difficult situation. They have been serving their sentences in interrogation cells, which is a violation of all norms. There have been frequent cases of several minors sharing the same bed.

Inhumane conditions have been created for prisoners sentenced to death who have been waiting for years for the outcome of their appeal. There are such prisoners who were sentenced to death as long ago as 1990.

During the course of last year, there were frequent cases of prisoners falling ill in Tbilisi's interrogation cell. Fifty people died. We could cite many examples of the violation of prisoners' and even staffers' rights but we will consciously refrain from doing so and mention only those fundamental problems without whose regulation it is superfluous to speak of the establishment of order within this system.

First: The material and technical base of prisons, interrogation cells, penal colonies, and other institutions within the penitentiary system is in a catastrophic state and does not satisfy elementary requirements;

Second: Prisoners' food and living conditions are wholly unsatisfactory. One can say that this question has been neglected. Prisoners have been surviving on food parcels from their relatives;

Third: The level of medical service is exceptionally low. One can expect an infectious disease to break out any moment. There is a shortage of medical personnel and medicine. Furthermore, there were deaths in 1993;

Fourth: Until reforms are implemented within the penitentiary system, it is necessary to use the production potential that had been created there over the years. Unfortunately, the disruption of production has seriously undermined the economic and financial situation within this system;

Fifth: Anarchy, violence, brutal treatment of prisoners, and facts of confrontation between prisoners are turning prisons into danger zones as far as a person's life and health are concerned;

Sixth: In 1993, supervision of and control over the activities of prison administrations were patently ineffectual.

One of the biggest problems facing the penitentiary system in Georgia is the shortage of staff and, most importantly, the extremely low level of their social security and protection of their rights.

In order to rectify this situation, it is necessary to implement the following measures:

—The republican commission for legal reform should accelerate the preparation of the reform of the penitentiary system, which will be based on fundamentally new approaches that are accepted in the civilized world;

—In accordance with instructions from the head of state, the question of penitentiary institutions and organizations should be discussed without delay at a session of the Cabinet of Ministers, which will create guarantees for the protection of prisoners' basic rights.

Concerning the Press

There are more than 200 newspapers, journals, television companies, and independent publishing houses registered in Georgia.

One can say that, during the year, the press and other mass media enjoyed freedom. There was no attempt on the part of state bodies to impose censorship upon journalists.

Many journalists, associations of journalists, newspaper editorial offices, and other mass media made marvelous use of the prevailing situation, which resulted in the appearance of new independent newspapers that, through their constructive approach, forthrightness, and bold exposure of shortcomings, are rendering a big service to the construction of a democratic Georgian state.

At the same time, there were raids on newspapers. On 16 March, in Batumi, there was an attack on a newspaper kiosk and all the copies of SAKARTVELOS KARIBCHE were taken. On 11 and 21 March, shots were fired at the apartment of the editor in chief of IBERIA-SPEKTRI. The editorial offices of SHVIDI DGHE and IBERIA-SPEKTRI were ransacked.

In this respect, one cannot fail to reproach the law enforcement agencies given that not a single one of these crimes has been solved. Therefore, it is clear that, in such a situation, the authorities assume responsibility.

The head of state has publicly expressed his negative attitude toward these facts. The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations and the Georgian Parliament Commission for Matters Concerning Human Rights and National Minorities have delivered statements of protest.

However, one cannot fail to point out that, at the time when Georgia's statehood was put in doubt, a civil war had, to all intents and purposes, begun, and the state was forced to introduce an emergency regime in order to prevent the expected catastrophe, the editorial offices of IBERIA-SPEKTRI and SAKARTVELOS SAMREKLO intensified the struggle aimed at deepening disunity and confrontation and, by so doing, virtually became ideological mouthpieces for the unleashing of civil war and its instigators. It was for this reason that their publication was halted.

Georgia's bodies of power actively cooperate with international law enforcement organizations. The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations has systematic and close business relations with the UN Center for Human Rights and Commission for Human Rights, the CSCE Office for the Building of Democracy and Human Rights, the International Red Cross, "Amnesty International," and "Human Rights Watch" (Helsinki).

It is precisely through such action and their help that the committee has elaborated proposals on the creation of a human rights system in the country. These proposals are based on the fundamental principles adopted by the UN General Assembly in December.

A few words about this system: The human rights system in Georgia should embrace both state bodies and nongovernmental public law enforcement organizations in their totality. The State Department for the Protection of Human Rights is a budget-financed body and completely independent. The highest human rights official is elected by the people or Parliament for a period of five years. He is given emergency powers, which is to ensure to the maximum the real protection of human rights.

A comprehensive text on the reform is being prepared and will be presented to Parliament and the head of state between October and December.

Instead of a Conclusion

The multitude of human rights violations in Georgia in 1993 and their character have made it necessary for us to take urgent and radical measures. One should especially single out the violation of human rights in the socioeconomic sphere and in institutions and organizations within the penitentiary system.

New tasks: Adherence to the pacts sets qualitatively new tasks before the state and makes it necessary to take a whole number of essential steps. In the view of the commission, the most important and urgent include:

—Propaganda on the pacts and optional protocol;

—Real control over the activities of administrations in the law enforcement agencies, special services, the penitentiary system, the Armed Forces, and other closed structures, taking into account the protection of human rights;

—The creation of constitutional and legal bases for the protection of human rights;

—The formation of a system for the protection of human rights;

—The acceleration of the implementation of the reform of the law courts;

—The development of a program of state activities in the field of human rights; the dissemination of instructional activities on a wide scale;

—The founding of an information bulletin on human rights and propaganda on the pacts and optional protocol. First and foremost on the agenda is the task of publishing these documents in Georgian. In this way, the state will ensure the realization of the fundamental right of man—the awareness of his rights. International pacts have been translated into Georgian and published in the journal SAKHELMTSIPO DA SAMARTALI [THE STATE AND THE LAW] (Nos. 4, 5 1990). However, this is not accessible to a broad circle of readers. The optional protocol has not been published at all in Georgian.

It is desirable that the pacts and the optional protocol be published in the newspapers SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA and SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in the form of supplements, which demands that financial (paper) questions be resolved and a highly professional translation guaranteed.

In the future, it would be expedient to bring out an official periodical under the aegis of the Committee on Human Rights in which international agreements, conventions, and pacts in the sphere of human rights are published in Georgian. This, for its part, demands taking into account the creation of an executive editorial and publishing department with this function within the structure of the Committee on Human Rights.

[Signed] The Republic of Georgia Committee on the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations

---

Human Rights Leader Halts Hunger Strike

AU2311115594 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 17-18 Nov 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Our Organization Is the Poorest and the Most Honest'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This was stated by Giorgi Kervalishvili, president of the All-Georgian Association for the Protection of Human Rights, at a news conference held for Georgian journalists on 16 November that marked one month since the beginning of the hunger-strike action. According to him, the indefinite hunger strike declared on 16 October was halted on 3 November on account of a worsening of his state of health and, on that day, 15 members of the association began a sit-down protest action that will continue until the association's demands are met.

He stated: "The main reason for ending the hunger strike was that a package of demands had been handed over to the UN commission in Geneva and Teodor Starchevich [UN representative in Georgia] has promised us an appropriate response."

The basic demands of the president of the All-Georgian Association for the Protection of Human Rights and the participants in the sit-down action are: The release of prisoners of conscience, the arrival of international experts and their appropriate response to sessions of the trial known as the Domukhovskiy-Gelbakhiani case, [supporters of ex-President Gamsakhurdia accused of attempting to murder J. Ioseliani, first deputy chairman of the State Council, in Tbilisi in 1992] the halting of the torture of people in detention cells by the current law enforcement agencies, the annulment of the decree of the mayor of Tbilisi on the prohibition of rallies and demonstrations in Tbilisi, the alignment of the Georgian Criminal Code with international standards, the halting of the persecution of persons on account of their political beliefs, the granting of television airtime to the opposition, and so forth.

Giorgi Kervalishvili's demands include Russian troops being given the status of an army of occupation and their removal from the territory of Georgia, "the inhuman actions perpetrated by the current authorities in Samegrelo and other areas of western Georgia being given the status of genocide of the nation," and "the restoration of Georgian jurisdiction on the territory of Abkhazia and Samachablo [South Ossetia] and the strengthening of true pluralism and democracy."

According to a statement made by the president of the All-Georgian Association for the Protection of Human Rights, the current destructive processes in the Georgian economy are the result of acts of sabotage by the government. "Our action corresponds to international standards and, if the government tries to crush it, they themselves will be the losers."

Estonia

Radiation Situation Normalizes in Kiisa

LD2211174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The radiation situation in the village of Kiisa near Tallinn has stabilized after deactivation works were carried out there, Interfax was told on Tuesday [22 November] by a spokesman for Estonian Rescue Department.

A metallic radiation source, probably caesium, with a radiation level of over 120 roentgen/hour (200 roentgen/hour dose is fatal) was registered in a cottage on Friday. Seven persons were hospitalized with the diagnosis of radiation sickness. A 13-year-old boy had a severe radioactive burn.

Experts believe that the owner of the radioactive house died a week before the dangerous metal was found.

The victims were hospitalized. A medical investigation carried out in the village failed to reveal new cases of the sickness. The radioactive background normalized after the source was removed.

The Estonian security police believe the radioactive metal was stolen in October by the boy and the man who died, from the nearby radioactive waste burial site. In addition to the radioactive source mentioned above, policemen also found several other items from the burial site but with lower radiation background readings.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry told Interfax there are no nuclear sites in Estonia from which radioactive materials can be stolen.

The spokesman said that by the time of the Soviet Union's collapse only research reactors were situated in Estonia in the town of Paldiskiy. However, this year they were dismantled.

Russian Ministry experts believe that the metallic 4 cm-long material which was the source of radiation, was part of a research instrument. They blame what happened on carelessness.

Bomb Disabled at Heating Distribution Center

WS2311095094 Tallinn ETA in English 1902 GMT 22 Nov 94

[From 22 Nov PAEVALEHT, p. 7; "News Bulletin" No. 227/94]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A worker of the Iru heating station accidentally prevented a terrorist act last week by disposing of a bomb placed at a heating main in Lasnamae. The man, who was drunk at that time, discovered a plastic bag and heard a ticking sound. He opened the bag and removed an alarm clock from it. He informed the police only on November 16, four days after the discovery, after having started to wonder about wiring connected to the clock. The police found that the bag contained 1.5 kilogrammes of explosives. The sabotage would have cut the heating of the Lasnamae district.

Lithuania

Danish Minister Notes 'Necessary Preparations' for EU

WS2311103494 Vilnius ELTA in English 1746 GMT 22 Nov 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 635]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, November 22, ELTA—"The countries seeking to join European Union [EU] should realize that they will be able to achieve it only by undergoing necessary preparations", Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, on visit in Lithuania, told a news conference on Tuesday [22 November].

Petersen said he did not think that mutual problems arising between Russia and Lithuania on Kaliningrad region could cripple Lithuania's chances to join international organizations.

He added that members of the Partnership for Peace programme had opportunities to join NATO, however, it would not happen in the near future but only after implementation of the cooperation in the sphere of security.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys who also took part in the news conference said that NATO Secretary General Willy Claes mentioned a possibility of expansion of this organization.

"But a situation in which the continent could be divided into two warring groups should be avoided, otherwise the Cold War will start again", Gylys claimed.

Petersen arrived in Lithuania on Monday and met with the Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, Defence Minister Linas Linkevicius and members of Seimas [parliament] Foreign Committee.

Ignalina Antiterorrist Measures Please Observers

WS2311104694 Tallinn BNS in English 1807 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 22, BNS—The international community is satisfied with measures taken in Lithuania to prevent possible acts of sabotage at the Ignalina nuclear power plant, the Lithuanian Atomic Energy Safety Inspectorate [LAESI] said in a press release Tuesday [22 November].

The LAESI said Lithuania's anti-sabotage efforts are praised in a statement adopted at the annual meeting of the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations

(CSNI) of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Nuclear Energy Agency. The CSNI consists of senior nuclear safety experts from all OECD countries.

The LAESI said Lithuania's actions also received approval from the German environment and nuclear safety ministry, which warned about a possible threat at Ignalina. The German ministry also thanked Lithuania for prompt reports about security measures taken at the nuclear plant.

Finland's radiation and nuclear safety center called actions taken at Ignalina "resolute."

The LAESI said reports received from Great Britain and Germany express support for the "firm and prudent position of Lithuanian government structures."

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian Government set up a special commission for Ignalina security. The 9-member commission is headed by Energy Minister Algimantas Stasiukynas and also includes Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius, environmental protection, communications, national security, interior affairs and Ignalina officials.

Government Forecasts Economic Development

LD2211181994 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 22 Nov 94

[FBIS Translated Text] According to forecasts by the Lithuanian Government, real wages are to increase by five percent next year, and in 1996 and 1997 their increase will be approximately the same—4.2 percent each year.

It is expected that real wages this year will be three percent higher than last year. The government considers that inflation will decrease from 45 percent this year to 15 percent in 1997. It is expected that inflation next year will constitute 25 percent, and in 1996—20 percent. Such figures are contained in a forecast of the development of the Lithuanian economy for 1996-1997.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.